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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-007 *11 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Palestinian Negotiators Resume Cairo Talks

Talks on Elections Continue

NC1001124495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators resumed their talks at the Israeli delegation's residence this morning. They are continuing to discuss legislative elections in the Palestinian self-rule territories and the proposed legislative council's powers and the number of its members in implementation of the Palestinian self-rule's transitional phase.

Yesterday the Palestinian delegation, led by Palestinian Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and the Israeli delegation, led by General Gadi Zohar, head of the civilian administration in the West Bank, held a session of talks at the Palestinian delegation's residence but the talks achieved no results.

Yesterday's session made no progress pending the outcome of talks held at the Erez checkpoint yesterday between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The Palestinian delegation is adamant that the talks on legislative elections run parallel with those on the Israeli forces' redeployment outside Palestinian villages and cities. Israel rejects this notion under security pretexts, something that hampered the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule's transitional phase for over nine months.

'Urayqat: No Agreements Reached

NC1001155295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government at the Palestinian Authority and head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel, has described as businesslike the 9th round of negotiations, which was held today in Cairo.

In statements made at the end of this round, 'Urayqat said that all topics on the table were discussed but no agreements were reached.

He said the Palestinians proposed forming a judicial committee made up of two judges each from Egypt, the United States, Russia, and the European Union to supervise the implementation of agreed-upon procedures concerning Palestinian legislative elections in the self-rule areas.

We asked the Israeli delegation to formulate a response to this proposal, he said.

'Urayqat said all issues related to the legislative elections were discussed during the talks. He expressed his belief that the formulation of an agreement on these issues can begin during the 10th round of talks, the date of which he did not specify.

He reaffirmed that elections cannot be held without the redeployment of Israeli forces outside Palestinian cities and villages on the West Bank in parallel with the transfer of all civilian powers to the Palestinian side and the revision of Israeli laws that are still valid in the West Bank.

Israeli Delegation Leaves

NC1001183195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which concluded today, left Cairo this evening.

The negotiations continued for two days in Cairo, with the Palestinian side headed by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, and the Israeli side by Brigadier General Gadi Zohar.

'Urayqat: Israel Must Choose

NC1101094995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Dr Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, left Cairo for home this morning after a visit to Egypt during which he chaired his country's delegation to the eighth round of talks with Israel.

Before departing, Dr. 'Urayqat stated that all the issues discussed in previous rounds were reviewed at this session. The Palestinian team, he added, presented a paper on the way in which it understands the elections should be supervised. A proposal was made to set up a committee made up of judges from Egypt, the United States, Russia, and the EU to supervise these elections, he added.

Dr. 'Urayqat added: We asked the Israeli delegation to come back next time with the authorization to begin drafting an interim agreement that addresses, in addition to the elections, the redeployment of Israeli troops beyond the densely populated areas, a revision of the laws, and the transfer of powers. He stressed: It is high time a start was made to drafting such an agreement and proceeding toward what we wish to achieve in the coming round, which could be held within two weeks.

Dr. 'Urayqat emphasized the need for Israel to abide by the Declaration of Principles it initialed. Under it the Israeli troops must be taken outside the occupied West Bank towns before elections start. He said he hoped these elections would be general and comprehensive.

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Regarding the construction of Jewish settlements, Dr. 'Urayqat stated that Israel must choose between peace or the settlements, because the two can never come together.

Abu-Rudaynah Denies Accord on Withdrawal, Patrols

JN1001162795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied Israeli news media reports today that during their meeting yesterday, President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reached an agreement on the Israeli Army withdrawal from areas in the West Bank, and on conducting joint patrols.

Abu-Rudaynah said: Yesterday's meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres focused on the Israeli forces' redeployment outside the populated areas in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Abu-Rudaynah added: The Israeli foreign minister informed President Yasir 'Arafat of the Israeli stand represented by halting the establishment of new settlements, and preventing the confiscation of lands in favor of settlements.

Moroccan Aide Denies Reports on Israel-Iraq Contacts

MM1001161895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Occupied Jerusalem, Rabat, AL-HAYAH—Moroccan Commerce and Industry Minister Driss Djattou has denied that the Iraqis received, during his recent visit to Baghdad, any request as regards relations with Israel.

He pointed out in a statement to AL-HAYAH that his position in the Moroccan government as an economic and trade official conflicts with embarking on a political mission of that kind.

He said: "I met with Iraqi officials in Baghdad. I discussed with them developing bilateral relations, especially the resumption of Moroccan exports and creating a new atmosphere to develop relations. I heard nothing of that kind from any Iraqi official."

The Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ said yesterday that King Hassan II of Morocco sent to Israeli authorities an Iraqi message stressing Baghdad's wish to recognize Israel and to make contacts with it. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algeria, Tunisia, Libya Reject Iraq's Visit Requests

JN0901202395 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 6 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Arab sources close to members of the Libyan delegation to the Arab League have said Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya the day before yesterday rejected an Iraqi request to receive Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz for talks with the leaders of the three countries during stopovers on his way back home from a surprising visit to France.

In a statement to AL-YAWM, the Arab sources added that Algeria was the first to reject the Iraqi request. Afterward, Algeria held contacts with Tunisia and Libya to convince them to turn down the Iraqi request. Libya and Tunisia yielded to Algeria's persuasion.

The rationale for the rejection was that the climate is not not currently suitable for visits by 'Aziz, particularly since Iraq has not complied with all UN resolutions regarding Kuwait.

The Arab sources went on to say that 'Aziz was slated to ask the leaders of the three countries to intercede with the Gulf states, the Arab League, and Egypt to help Iraq in its efforts to get the UN Security Council-ordered economic sanctions clamped on it lifted.

League Secretary News Conference on Iraq, Lockerbie

LD0701222995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2055 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 7 Jan—Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, has said that no Arab reconciliation can be reached before the effects of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait were removed.

In a news conference that was held here tonight, he stressed "that the removal of the effects of the aggression was a necessary step preceding the clearing of the Arab air."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized "the need for Iraq to comply with all the Security Council resolutions related to the Iraqi aggression and which Iraq actually accepted." [passage omitted]

He attributed the deterioration in the Arab situation to "the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and its consequences."

At the news conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed the Arab League's support for the Libyan request "that the accused in the Lockerbie affair should be tried before a Scottish court in a neutral country, and the suggestion that it should take place at the International Court of Justice in The Hague."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained this suggestion in that international law does not permit a state to hand over its nationals to other countries with which it does not have an extradition treaty. [passage omitted]

He stressed the Arab League's support for the United Arab Emirates in regaining its sovereignty over the three

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islands of Lesser Tunb, Greater Tunb, and Abu Musa, which are occupied by Iran.

'Abd-al-Majid called for a peaceful solution to be found to this problem, indicating that Iran's refusal to solve this problem constituted a threat to its relations with Arab states. [passage omitted]

League Hits 'Western Inflexibility' on Lockerbie

MM1001102995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, has criticized "the failure of the Western parties concerned with the Lockerbie crisis to respond to Arab and Libyan endeavors to secure a political solution to this crisis, to bring the suspects to trial, and to end the sanctions imposed on the Libyan people since mid-April 1992."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH 'Imran said: "The continued failure to resolve the Lockerbie crisis is an example of international scorn for the Arab states' interests."

He said that the proposal submitted by the Arab League to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and the parties to the Lockerbie crisis "is the best option promising a comprehensive solution, since it guarantees a fair trial for the two suspects under Scottish law and before Scottish judges."

He added that "Western inflexibility will not lead to a solution to this problem but, rather, will complicate it further."

Libyan Delegate Warns League on Palestinian Issue

LD0601155195 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Ay Annar [January] 6, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—The Arab League's council held an emergency session on the level of permanent representatives yesterday in response to a call by the Palestinian permanent commission to study the activities of the Israeli enemy in occupied Palestine.

Libya's permanent representative made a speech in which he said that the Arab nation has lost its memory as representatives meet to discuss the consequences of an issue that has been forgotten ie the Israeli occupation since 1948 and the consequent defeats of the Arab nation and the Israeli occupation of Syrian and Lebanese territory.

He went on to say that the Arab nation used to discuss the origin of the problem namely the Israeli occupation in 1948 but now they are discussing the occupation of 1967 and the following series of occupations. They are also discussing the settlement which began last year.

Libya's representative questioned what could be discussed in the following years and said that the problem needed to be solved at its basis and origins.

Libya's representative to the Arab League praised the Syrian position which rejects the conditions dictated by the conqueror. He also praised the bravery of the Lebanese people in regaining their total rights.

The representative drew attention to the following points:

"The need to stop the enemy's expansive project and his confiscation of land.

"The removal of Israeli occupation from Syrian territories without any conditions.

"Putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

"The dismantling of all weapons of mass destruction. He supported Egypt's stance in this respect and called on Arab countries to adopt similar stances and not to back down as they did in the past during the signing of the chemical weapons non-proliferation treaty.

"Tackling the Arab rush towards the Israeli enemy, the great Jamahariya's representative asked what have we gained and how is such a rush justified. Has South Lebanon been liberated? Is the Israeli threat to Arab national security over. In fact the Israeli enemy became a partner in land, water and oil and what is taking place is the acceptance of the logic of force and submission to the conditions of the conqueror as if we were a nation of fools that is forced to set fire to its entire heritage and some non Arab countries are drawing close to Arab states than the Arab countries themselves. Israeli airliners are landing in some Arab states at a time when Arab-Libyan airlines are banned due to fear and panic. There are a lot of things which have to be terminated to end such unjust treatment by Arab countries. He pointed to the fact that the actions of the Arabs shocked and surprised the enemy who cannot believe what he is seeing and hearing. In this way we are ridiculing and humiliating ourselves and are becoming the meanest on the globe, according to the leader of the revolution.

The delegate confirmed at the end of his speech that the return of the Palestinian people to their land, the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction, the activation of joint Arab action, halting the unjustified rush, taking solid actions towards such a rush, putting an end to all these demeaning actions—these will be the priorities of Libyan policy.

He stressed that is high time to hold an urgent Arab summit called for by the leader of the revolution.

The delegates of Egypt, Algeria, Syria and Yemen all expressed their appreciation of the clear Arab-Libyan stance.

Meeting of Committee on 'Displaced' Postponed

JN1101111995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 24

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Reliable Palestinian sources have said that the three-way meeting between Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian National Authority on the issue of the displaced that was scheduled to be held in Cairo today was postponed to 21 January. The sources said the postponement comes in view of previous arrangements of some of the officials who participate in this meeting. [passage omitted]

Arab Media Committee Discusses Cooperation in Cairo

NC1001132295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—The Arab Media Standing Committee opened its 55th session at the Arab League headquarters this morning. It discussed the implementation of resolutions passed by the seventh session of the Arab Information Ministers Council and the recommendations of the Arab Media Standing Committee.

The committee's agenda includes 14 topics covering all aspects of cooperation and coordination in various media spheres; the media's role in highlighting the Arab League's role; and the progress of Arab Cooperation through the information, cultural, and educational activities and programs carried out by the member states to mark this pan-Arab occasion.

Maghreb Ministers Agree To Work Toward Single Market

LD1001231395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the fourth session of the Council of Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Finance Ministers ended in Algiers today with the signing of a protocol and the approval of laws issued by the Maghreban Committee on Insurance which was set up by virtue of the Tunis agreement in 1994.

Regarding cooperation on taxation and tax laws, two working groups were set up especially for this purpose. These groups will be harmonizing the tax systems in the five AMU countries and will draw up a working approach to this effect.

On the proposals put forward by Algeria and which have been accepted, Mr. Ahmed Benbitour, Algerian finance minister, had this to say:

[Begin Benbitour recording] Algeria prepared this agreement on insurance and reassurance. As regards the agreements on the abolition of double taxation, we paved the way for more in-depth studies on commercial exchanges between the Maghreban countries and on better investment conditions for the Maghreban countries.

I believe these are the main points which Algeria has worked on these days and these are extremely positive aspects for Maghreban cooperation. [end recording]

The new element in this session was the signing of a protocol of Maghreban trade cooperation which Mourad Cherif, the Moroccan minister of finance and investments, has explained as follows:

[Begin Cherif recording] The agreement has a very important objective, namely the gradual establishment of a free trade zone between the two countries. I do not mean just between Morocco and Algeria, but between all the Maghreban countries. The medium-term objective is to establish this free trade zone through the unification of economic, financial and customs policies and also the tax systems and tariffs. Therefore, this agreement is a step towards the realization of this objective which will take us gradually to the creation of a single Maghreban market. This can also be achieved by exploiting the opportunities for economic integration between the Maghreban countries. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 16 Dec

NC0901133895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 16 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Islamic Preacher Banned From Travel
2. Opposition Leaders Urge Resisting Normalization With Israel
3. Brotherhood Condemns Russian Intervention in Chechnya
4. U.S. Said To Frustrate Reconciliation Efforts in Casablanca
5. Arrest Campaign Targets al-Salafiyah Movement
6. U.S. Urges Israel To Curb Egypt's Objection to Nuclear Treaty
7. IMF Demands Eliminating Subsidy From State Budget
8. American-Zionist Scheme To Destroy Egyptian Cotton Seen

ISLAMIC PREACHER BANNED FROM TRAVEL

An unattributed 120-word report on page 1 says that Alexandria security authorities have prevented Islamic Preacher Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahallawi from leaving for Italy, Germany, and Greece at the invitation of the Egyptian communities for security reasons. "Although al-Mahallawi has a travel permit and entry visas to the three European states, the State Security officers told him that he has been placed on the list of persons banned from travel," the report says.

The report notes also that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo has refused to renew al-Mahallawi's entry visa, which he had obtained three times in the past.

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OPPOSITION LEADERS URGE RESISTING NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL

A 500-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 6 gives an account of a rally held at the headquarters of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, NPUG, on 14 December with the participation of the leaders of the Labor Party, the Arab Democratic Nasirite Party, the NPUG, and the Liberal Party, in addition to representatives of several political powers. The conferees called for "resisting the state of Zionist-American domination of the destiny of the Arab and Muslim nations, which intensified in the wake of what they called the Casablanca summit."

The report notes that speakers "reiterated their adherence to their earlier position on normalization with the Zionist enemy, a position which rejects all forms of cooperation. They pledged to sustain the boycott and mobilize all efforts to resist this domination, which targets the present and future of the Arab and Muslim nation."

In his speech at the rally, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri described the Arab and Egyptian "rush" toward Israel under the normalization cliche as "criminal acts only committed by a traitor or agent." He warned against "giving the Jews control of the nation's resources under the banner of Middle Easternism, now that the Zionist lobby is in control of American policy and, accordingly, most states."

Shukri stressed that "Jerusalem is Arab and Muslim and will only be liberated by Muslims." He called for setting up popular committees to sensitize the people to the "risks" involved in capitulation to Jews and Americans. He denounced attempts by "mercenaries" to promote the Middle East market, pointing out that just like the Camp David Accords, this will only bring ruin, social discord, drugs, consumer habits, and debts. He notes also that dealing with Israel brought nothing but destruction to industry, tourism, and trade in Egypt.

NPUG leader Khalid Muhiy-al-Din appealed to the Egyptian people to "confront every attempt to wipe out the Arab identity," pointing out that the Middle East market will turn Israel from "a choking entity into a superpower at the expense of the Arab people's future."

Liberal Party Leader Mustafa Kamil Murad called on national political powers to "stand firm against the Israeli and American schemes to establish Greater Israel."

Nasirite Party leader Diya'-al-Din Dawud called on trade unions to voice their rejection of cooperation and normalization with Zionists. He invited party newspapers to "expose the establishments that deal and coordinate with the murderers of Arabs and enemies of Islam and pan-Arabism."

Finally, Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah, chairman of the Arab Artists Federation, stressed that he is against all attempts to achieve cultural normalization with Israel.

BROTHERHOOD CONDEMNS RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN CHECHNYA

On page 6, a 300-word statement by Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, says that "the Muslim Brotherhood follows with deep concern the Russian intervention in the Muslim Republic of Chechnya, which gained independence by the will of its people after decades of hateful communist occupation."

The statement notes that "Russia backs the Serb aggressors in Bosnia and provides them with all forms of support under the excuse of their ethnic distinctiveness, while it denies the Chechens their right to an independent, dignified life and rushes to occupy their land."

Voicing support for Chechnya's right to chose an independent government, the statement calls on the world community, the United Nations, and the UN Security Council to undertake their role to stop the Russian aggression and withdraw the Russian troops that have occupied an independent state. The statement appeals also to the Islamic summit in Casablanca to rush to the assistance of their brother Muslims and put pressure on Russia to withdraw its troops.

U.S. SAID TO FRUSTRATE RECONCILIATION EFFORTS IN CASABLANCA

A 700-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah, pages 1 and 6, says that the Islamic summit that concluded in Casablanca on 15 December "has failed to produce anything new that benefits the European, Muslim state of Bosnia, except for giving oral support and uttering the famous Arab slogans that condemn, denounce, and decry schemes to annihilate the Bosnians."

The report notes that the summit "indirectly turned down the Bosnian Government's three major requests" for immediate financial support, weapons supplies, and training programs for army officers, only appealing to the West and the United Nations not to withdraw their troops from Bosnia and to take deterrent measures against the Serbian aggressors.

The report notes also that security in Islamic states and cooperation to confront extremism and terrorism preoccupied the conferees, some of whom demanded bilateral and collective security agreements to extradite wanted persons and expel extremist opposition members from the states harboring them.

Citing diplomats who attended the summit, the report notes that the United States of America put its weight "into preventing reconciliation with Iraq and frustrating efforts to lift the embargo on it."

The report believes that the U.S. intervention "ruined the reconciliatory atmosphere that prevailed during the summit and frustrated efforts to hold an Arab summit meeting on its sidelines."

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ARREST CAMPAIGN TARGETS AL-SALAFIYAH MOVEMENT

An unattributed 50-word report on page 6 claims the security authorities launched a large-scale arrest campaign against members of the al-Salafiyah Movement in the Pyramids area, arresting over 30. The report adds that some were later released, while some are still in detention, most notably Muhammad al-Kurdi, "one of the movement's leading cadres."

The report notes that the movement uses the Pyramids area as a center for its activities and the al-Rahmah Mosque, on the Pyramids road, for a headquarters.

U.S. URGES ISRAEL TO CURB EGYPT'S OBJECTION TO NUCLEAR TREATY

A 150-word report by Rabi' Shahin on page 6 cites "diplomatic sources" saying that the U.S. Administration conveyed a message to the "Zionist Government" a few days ago, saying "the United States is not asking Israel to sign the renewal of the Nonproliferation Treaty in April, but hopes Israel will take steps to help curb Egypt's objection to renewal."

According to the report, the message notes Cairo's threat to lead an Arab alliance supported by the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic states to resist the treaty if Israel remains exempted from it.

IMF DEMANDS ELIMINATING SUBSIDY FROM STATE BUDGET

An unattributed 150-word report on page 6 reveals that the IMF has asked the government to eliminate from the state budget any item concerning subsidies for any service or commodity during the talks with officials in the past few days. The IMF claims that maintaining the subsidy conflicts with economic reform measures.

In an attempt to avoid a crisis with the IMF, the government suggested a partial elimination of subsidies but the IMF turned down the suggestion, the report says.

AMERICAN-ZIONIST SCHEME TO DESTROY EGYPTIAN COTTON SEEN

Salah Bidiwi tries, in a 4,000-word study on page 2, to "uncover the dimensions of an American-Zionist scheme to destroy Egyptian cotton."

Citing reports by the Council of Minister's Data Center, he states that in 1982, when Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali first came to office, "Egypt was producing 10 million quintals (1 billion kilograms) of cotton, a sixth of the world's production of long-staple cotton." An area of 1.6 million feddans was planted with cotton to cover local demand. It provided 3-4.5 million quintals for export and left a strategic reserve. At that time a feddan of cotton cost no more than 200 pounds and accrued a profit exceeding 400 pounds, according to agronomist Abu-al-Futuh 'Ali Kamal-al-Din and lawyer Kamal al-Azhari. In 1994 the total crop delivered to the government for marketing dropped to 2.1 million quintals.

The report points out that the "total cotton production in 1993 was estimated at 5 million quintals and the growing area dropped to below half what it was in 1982, reaching 720,000 feddans." The report adds: Economy Ministry reports affirm that "Egypt has been driven out of the world cotton market," that its cotton exports dropped to 200,000 quintals, and that it now imports 1.2 million quintals of American short-staple cotton to cover the shortage in the local market.

According to the report, the farmer now gets between 50 and 60 percent of the world cotton price after the subsidy on agricultural equipment was lifted completely and the prices of fertilizers, pesticides, and other costs involved in cotton farming increased by 600 percent. A feddan of cotton this year cost between 600 and 800 pounds. And the Ministry of Agriculture is unable to fight the pests that devour crops.

Asking what happened to Egyptian cotton over the past 12 years, he points out that a technical committee formed on the orders of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan to study agricultural reform policies in Egypt in 1982 recommended that "the long-staple cotton that stays in the soil for a long period" should be replaced by American short-staple strains that stay in the soil for less time and reap a higher profit. The Al-Narb project, an Egyptian-American research center, was established after negotiations involving Wali and U.S. and Zionist experts to carry out the recommendations of the committee.

Research produced the Bima strain of Egyptian-American cotton, which was successfully grown in California. The strains suggested by American experts were destroyed by pests in Egypt.

Jewish experts who took part in the al-Narb research work grew Bima strains in Negev, achieved high cotton productivity, and bragged about their genius that "qualifies them to compete with any state in cotton production if only they had the water," the report says.

The report adds that American companies, in collaboration with Zionist companies, started to spread propaganda claiming that Egyptian cotton was "saturated with fertilizers and chemicals that cause serious diseases to humans." Accordingly, Dr. Wali decided to produce "organic cotton," eliminating the use of fertilizers or chemicals. The result was that pests destroyed the crop completely.

Bidiwi then gives an account of a seminar organized by the Economic and Agricultural Research Center to diagnose the problem and find a cure. He cites a World Bank report estimating that Egyptian cotton production "will diminish by 7 percent every year between 1991 and 2005, dropping to 275,000 metric tons in 2005."

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Participants in the seminar called for restoring the traditional cotton strains, the elimination of which was a fatal mistake. Some believe that government domination of pricing policy dissuades farmers from growing cotton; some stressed that Egypt should be "the capital of the weaving industry" instead of selling raw cotton; and others believe that "all public and private sector companies should join forces to restore Egypt's position as a cotton exporter to compete with the state monopolizing the trade, that is, America."

In a final note, Bidiwi warns that current reform policy destroys the cotton industry. He stresses that national powers should become allies to stop it and find ways out.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 20 Dec

NC0901123495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Brotherhood Leader Discusses Islamic Summit
2. Study Explains Reasons for, Solution to Violence
3. Violence, Security Measures in Mallawi Viewed
4. Islamic Lawyers' Leaders Refute Criticism of Association
5. Preacher al-Ghazali Views Plan To Establish Orthodox State
6. Columnist Says Islamic Shari'ah Is Best Medicine for Muslims

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER DISCUSSES ISLAMIC SUMMIT

In an approximately 1,500-word article on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur discusses the Islamic summit in Casablanca, saying he hopes it will usher in "a new era, a true Islamic renaissance, and a step toward unifying the Islamic nation." Mashhur begins by stating that Muslims in many places, such as Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, and Chechnya, are "moaning under painful strikes," awaiting help from the Muslim world. He says Muslims hoped the Islamic summit would take tangible steps to address these problems and confront the challenges facing Islam. He adds that he was encouraged by President Mubarak's speech to the summit in which he called for Islamic unity.

Mashhur then asserts that the Islamic nation, thanks to plans and attacks by its enemies, is in difficulty, with immense suffering and many problems. Much patience and strong determination are needed to address this situation, he says, adding that Muslims can never lose hope, because God will always come to their aid.

The Muslim Brotherhood official then expresses the fear that the resolutions and recommendations of the Islamic summit will remain unimplemented. He says various newspapers highlighted that the summit failed to address the Bosnian problem and notes that there are Palestinian-Jordanian differences over Jerusalem while the Israelis, as he says, Judaize the city and declare that it will remain their eternal capital.

Referring to the summit's discussion of terrorism and extremism, Mashhur states: "Here we say the cards were shuffled and the moderate Islamic movements were falsely and wrongly labeled as terrorist and extremist." He says such characterization was encouraged by the enemies of Islam, singling out the Jews, "who incite Arab and Muslim governments against all Islamic movements, even against those that call for God through preaching and good counsel and renounce violence and terrorism." Mashhur asserts that the local circumstances that drive young men to practice violent acts must be studied. He cites the example of the obstruction of elections and the imposition of martial law in Algeria. Mashhur then suggests that if Muslims really want to get out of their crisis they must take pride in their Islam. Each Islamic government, he says, must plan to apply Islamic shari'ah, protect the youth from corruption, ban alcohol and usury, unleash freedoms and arrange for free elections, seek economic self-sufficiency, support other Islamic countries and minorities, and cooperate to achieve a unified Islamic position.

STUDY EXPLAINS REASONS FOR, SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE

In a 1,000-word report on page 3, Subhi Buhayri cites a study presented by researcher Hamdi al-Basir to the Conference on Politics and the Local System in Egypt. The date and place of the conference are not given. In his study, based on a field trip to the violence-stricken village of Sanabu in Upper Egypt, al-Basir discusses violence, its reasons, and the way to stop it. The study reportedly says that in the absence of government services and agencies, the Islamic Group began its activity in the village at the end of the eighties, providing tangible services and monthly allowances to the poor, giving loans to young men to start small businesses, opening clinics, giving free extra lessons to the needy, and so on. The researcher claims that violence erupted in the village when the security forces killed, "without reason," the leader of the Islamic Group in the village as he left a mosque. He says this angered villagers, who admired the man and went to him whenever they needed help or advice. The study refers to public fear and strict security measures in the village and concludes that violence in Upper Egypt "will not stop, because there are economic, security, political, and environmental reasons for its continuation, indeed its escalation." To solve the problem, the researcher proposes that services be improved, investment encouraged, new jobs created, media policy changed, and tough security measures relaxed.

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VIOLENCE, SECURITY MEASURES IN MALLAWI VIEWED

A 2,000-word report by Ahmad Mahjub on page 6 discusses violence in Mallawi in Upper Egypt, accusing the security forces of practicing physical liquidation against Islamists and imposing collective punishment on the city's residents. The report, which largely cites the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, claims that in many cases innocent citizens killed by stray security forces' bullets or by nervous security men are referred to by security statements and official media as terrorists. The report mentions the names of several Islamic Group members allegedly killed by the security forces while in detention. The report says that the strict security measures in al-Minya and Asyut "include many features of collective punishment, which is being expanded to affect a large sector of the population that has nothing to do with the struggle between the security forces and the suspect members of the Islamic Group." As an example of such punishment, the report mentions illegal detention, damage to shops, cutting off of services to besieged villages, long curfews, and the burning of large areas of sugar cane plantations.

ISLAMIC LAWYERS' LEADERS REFUTE CRITICISM OF ASSOCIATION

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, on pages 2 and 6, writes a 1,500-word report on an interview with Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers Association, and Mukhtar Nuh, the association's treasurer. The two leading Muslim Brotherhood figures react to accusations by lawyers' doyen Ahmad al-Khawajah that they arranged for an illegal meeting of the association's council at which a sympathizer with the Islamic trend was elected to the council. They also discuss accusations that the association has lost its pan-Arab role because it is under the control of the Muslim Brotherhood. The doyen is cited noting financial irregularities in the association. The two lawyers refute all these claims, enumerating the achievements of the association and arguing that the meeting of its council was legal, and deny any financial violations. Al-Banna is cited saying: "The Islamic trend at the association emerged through the will of the lawyers during free elections that saw an unprecedented turnout. Should the Islamic trend, to maintain the association's pan-Arabism, concede its majority and hand it over to others? This, of course, is inconceivable."

PREACHER AL-GHAZALI VIEWS PLAN TO ESTABLISH ORTHODOX STATE

In a 400-word article on page 12, Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali states his anxiety over the future of Islam caused by, what he calls, the enemies' growing aggression and Muslim governments' weak adherence to Islam. He says his concern was heightened when he read a newspaper report that preparations are being made to turn Istanbul's main mosque into a church. The report cites a plan to erase the Islamic presence in the Balkans and eliminate Muslims in the Caucasus in preparation for establishing an Orthodox state parallel to the Vatican. Al-Ghazali says that while the Catholics established the Vatican to supervise their affairs, the Jews established the state of Israel to serve as a meeting place for them, and those who follow the Orthodox faith are planning their own state, the Islamic world is seeing many large political movements trying to replace religion with nationalism.

COLUMNIST SAYS ISLAMIC SHARI'AH IS BEST MEDICINE FOR MUSLIMS

In his 500-word column on page 12, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus maintains that adherence to the teachings of Islam is "the right medicine" for the Islamic nation. He dismisses claims that religion represents a special relationship between man and God and has nothing to do with politics. He writes: "It is regrettable that most Muslim rulers hold this view, accusing anyone calling for the application of God's shari'ah of being an extremist and a supporter of political Islam!" He cites Koranic verses in a bid to prove that the Islamic nation is a unified nation and that religion is a complete way of life, including worship, ethics, politics, economy, and so on.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Asks U.S. To Intervene in Settlement Issue

TA1101090195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by News agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo— PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has asked the United States to intervene quickly to stop Israel from expanding and funding settlements, a PLO official said yesterday.

"We met the US (consul) in Jerusalem and we asked his country to intervene immediately to stop the settlements in all forms and their funding, out of concern for the peace process," chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th told Reuters.

"(Yasir) 'Arafat has also directly contacted the US administration on the issue of settlements," added Sha'th, who is in charge of planning in the Palestinian Authority.

The State Department would not confirm that the Palestinians had appealed to the US to curb expansion of Israeli settlements.

But spokeswoman Christine Shelly said "we admit that they're (the settlements) a problem" and called on the parties to "deal with these issues" together as stated in the Declaration of Principles. [passage omitted]

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Sha'th Rejects Peres Reasons for Land Confiscation

JN1101091995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'th has stated that the National Authority has asked the U.S. consul in Jerusalem for his country's intervention with Israel to have it stop all forms of settlement activities to safeguard the peace process.

Sha'th added that the question of expanding the existing Jewish settlements has created a gap between the two sides. He said that contacts were held with the U.S. Administration in the past.

The planning and international cooperation minister rejected Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres statements the day before yesterday that the confiscation of Palestinian territory is simply to open roads to facilitate the Israeli army's withdrawal from areas in the occupied West Bank. Sha'th said that Peres statement means that Israel reserves the right to confiscate Palestinian land and that this can never be accepted.

Conference Against Settlement Issues Statement

TA1001181695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Jan 95 p 4

["Text" of the "concluding political statement issued by the national conference against settlement" in Jericho on 9 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] The participants in the national conference against settlement, held in Jericho on 9 January by representatives of the various national and Islamic forces, institutions, organizations, municipalities, chambers of commerce, and the committees for the defense of land, discussed the dangers of the new settlement campaign being waged over various parts of our homeland, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip.

The participants believe this campaign affirms the Israeli Government's goals of continuing settlement expansion and usurping Palestinian land; impeding the peace efforts; and ignoring our people's right to sovereignty over the soil of their homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

In light of this, the national conference decided as follows:

1. To condemn the Israeli settlement campaign and call for exploiting all national and popular capabilities and potential to confront it, because the entire settlement presence is illegal and must be removed from all Palestinian territories, primarily holy Jerusalem. The conference stresses its total rejection of the ongoing policy of Judaizing Jerusalem and isolating it from the rest of the Palestinian territories and calls for exploiting every potential to confront this policy.

2. To hold the Israeli Government responsible for violating all its promises about stopping settlement activity and to hold its expansionist policy responsible for the collapse of the peace chances.

3. To call on national organizations, forces, and institutions to expand the committees for the defense of land in all areas and centers, especially those threatened with settlement, and continue the struggle as a political struggle. The conference also calls for enhancing the role of and support for existing committees and institutions and using every means to launch the most widespread popular campaign to confront settlement and resist the sabotage of settler gangs. Moreover, the conference calls for support of the steadfastness of Palestinian prisoners and for the release of all of them without discrimination, as well as unconditional support for their heroic stand and moves.

4. To call for a massive national march and other national marches during the next two weeks to resist settlement activity and settlement expansion and urge the release of Palestinian freedom prisoners. The conference calls on people to turn to national institutions and organizations in all areas to support the steadfastness of the citizens and popular masses who defend and hold on to their lands in locations threatened with settlement activity, especially holy Jerusalem. Furthermore, the conference calls for declaring 15 January a day of national activities and a comprehensive national strike throughout the homeland's soil.

5. To call on the forces of peace in Israel to intensify their activities and solidarity against the settlement drive, which threatens the peace process.

6. To demand that the Palestinian National Authority play a more active role in confronting settlement and suspend the talks, because continuing them amid a settlement campaign encourages the Israeli Government to continue its settlement expansion policy. There is no peace with settlement.

7. To demand the immediate convocation of the UN Security Council to discuss Israel's violations and aggressions against Palestinian lands, as well as settlement in general, and a special UN General Assembly session for this purpose. The conference also calls on the cosponsors of the peace process to shoulder their responsibilities in pressuring Israel to cease its violations.

8. To call for the convocation of an urgent Arab meeting on the highest level to discuss ways of confronting the Israeli policy of trying to extract the benefits of peace while maintaining the occupation, expansion, and settlement. Furthermore, the conference demands that friendly and Arab states stop contacts and various steps of normalization with Israel, which it is exploiting to

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prolong its hostile policy which disavows the Palestinian people's rights over their land.

9. To consolidate the unity of the Palestinian national rank inside and outside and call on leading PLO institutions to shoulder their responsibility of assessing the political peace process in light of Israel's violation of all the bases and rules on which this process was established, as well as protecting the national goals on which the Palestinian national program was based.

10. To form a higher national follow-up committee comprising representatives of all forces, parties, and areas in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, as well as representatives of the committees for the defense of land, to confront settlement activity, continue the resistance against it, and follow the implementation of these decisions and recommendations. This committee should hold periodic meetings and call on the national conference to convene again as soon as possible.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Consequences of Settlement Expansion

TA1101111495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Palestinian Authority's [PA] official in charge of culture and information, says that the negotiations with Israel should be suspended in reaction to the expansion of the Elqana settlement and that the PA will hold an emergency meeting upon 'Arafat's return from Egypt. Yoni Ben-Menahem has more:

[Ben-Menahem] The PA is furious at the Elqana expansion activities. Only two days ago, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh says, 'Arafat met with Peres, who promised that no more settlements would be expanded, and yet a new affair is already brewing.

PA members held consultations on the Elqana affair and the Arab villagers' protest rallies through the night. During the night, Ahmad al-Tibi telephoned 'Arafat in Cairo and brought him up to date on the latest developments.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh, in English] This is more serious than what happened in al-Khidr and in other places. After the return of Chairman 'Arafat, I believe there will be a meeting of the PA, and I think that this is the end of the road. Either all these activities should stop and the settlers withdraw from the occupied and confiscated land, or the PA will have to take serious and decisive decisions.

[Ben-Menahem, in English] This means that you might suspend negotiations with Israel?

['Abd-Rabbuh, in English] This is the least that should be done, from my point of view. [end recording]

[Ben-Menahem translates above and continues] The Palestinians claim that a new government—the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza government—has been established in the territories and that it is neutralizing the lawful Government of Israel. The continuation of this illegal activity will sow havoc, and we will not tolerate the continued theft of lands, they say.

Ministry Issues Data on Land Expropriation

TA1001132795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 95 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority's Information Ministry distributed a summary of the data on recent Israeli settlement activities in the territories to the participants in the Jericho conference yesterday. The document charges, among other things, that:

—In the period between the signing of the Oslo accord in September 1993 and October 1994, Israel expropriated approximately 70,000 dunam of land in the territories, of which approximately 10,000 dunam are to be used to expand existing settlements.

—Most of the land was confiscated in the period between the signing of the Oslo accord (September 1993) and the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord in Cairo (May 1994). During that period, 8,630 dunam were confiscated on a monthly average, while 2,700 dunam were confiscated monthly after the signing of the Cairo accord.

—Since the signing of the Oslo accord, approximately 6,000 dunam have been confiscated monthly for the construction of roads in the West Bank. The previous monthly average was 4,000.

—In general, the Israeli Government plans to pave 320 km of new roads in the West Bank.

Official Notes Topics of 'Arafat-Mubarak Talks

JN1101083495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo yesterday. The discussion dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, and the obstacles hindering it. primarily the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, and the Israeli forces redeployment outside the cities and villages in the West Bank before elections are held.

A ranking Palestinian official has stated that the meeting between Presidents 'Arafat and Mubarak was also to determine what support we wish to receive from Egypt, particularly regarding the settlements and Jerusalem issue.

The Palestinian official said that Egypt is ready to intervene in our favor even with the UN Security Council. The PLO has asked the UN Security Council to

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expeditiously adopt a stand on Israel's continuation of the illegal settlement expansion policy.

The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations, particularly offering more facilities concerning the Palestinians movement through Egypt.

Officers Said To Thwart Attack on Israeli School Bus

TA1001154495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An item just in from our correspondent Eli Bohadana: There are no casualties in an incident in the Gaza Strip in which six armed Palestinians in civilian clothes tried to board a bus carrying dozens of children to the settlement of Netzarim. The bus was released only as a result of the intervention of Palestinian officers. To repeat, the incident passed without casualties.

Security Service Members Said Involved

TA1001192695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A bus transporting dozens of Jewish schoolchildren back to their homes in Netzarim was stopped today at the Netzarim junction by six plainclothes Palestinian Security Service members, armed with guns. They cursed, hurled insults, and tried to board the bus. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the bus was escorted by two military vehicles. The Palestinian car tried to pass the bus, but one of the escort vehicles prevented it from doing so. The Palestinian car eventually managed to pass the bus and block its way. A joint Palestinian Police-Israeli Border Police patrol arrived at the site, drove the rioting Palestinians away, and calmed tempers. Nobody was hurt.

'Arafat Under Pressure To Bring In 'Fighters'

MM1001132095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Palestinians' Problems in Arab States Behind 'Arafat's Proposal To Move Fighters From There"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut—An official Lebanese source has told AL-HAYAH that representatives of the people's committees in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp cabled Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently, stressing that the only way to halt the fighting in the camp is for him to hasten to summon the fighters—especially the senior leaders among them—abroad, and the Palestinian President promised to consider the request.

The source revealed that " 'Arafat's leadership has begun to face problems as a result of the request by some Arab states that the Palestinians who entered their territories after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon should leave these countries. And Libya has deported more than 300 Palestinians and ordered a ship to take them to southern Lebanon."

The source added that "the Lebanese public security department was informed of the intention to deport them from the port of Tire, hence security services hastened to take the necessary precautions, telling those concerned that it would not allow the ships to anchor to allow the Palestinians on board to disembark, so it had to head for Gaza."

The Lebanese source said that "some Arab states recently took strict measures as regards the Palestinians' entry. These states include states which hosted them immediately after the Israeli invasion. They are now refusing to allow those who left their territory following the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement to return unless they obtain entry visas."

A source from the Palestinian delegation to the Arab interior ministers' council, which concluded its proceedings in Tunis yesterday, told AL-HAYAH that the Palestinian and Israeli sides discussed the possibility of allowing a number of Palestinians to enter Gaza to join the Palestinian police.

The sources stressed that "Israel has received a list of people living in the diaspora in neighboring Arab states. Israeli intelligence has assigned its organs to scrutinize the names, after expressing initial agreement to consider the request." The source said that the "meetings continued, and an agreement was reached to reduce the number of 2,000 Palestinians."

The Palestinian source pointed out that " 'Arafat is still awaiting the final reply, and he has asked Western states to intervene with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to speed up a final agreement, especially as we need hundreds [of Palestinians] to bolster the ranks of the Palestinian police." The source pointed to "the existence of a joint committee scrutinizing the names, and the Palestinian side is providing answers to the questions asked by Israeli officials in the committee in question."

Official Lebanese sources have said that the interior minister of an Arab state concerned directly with the situation of the Palestinians in the diaspora said before a number of his colleagues that " 'Arafat needs not only to bolster the ranks of the Palestinian police, but he is now compelled to respond to the pressure exerted on him by the Palestinians outside the self-rule areas in the Arab states, and he will try to absorb them by providing them with residence in Gaza."

Ghawshah Assails Transfer of PLO Forces to Gaza

NC0701195695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah; place not given; by 'Isam Hasan in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] We have two issues to discuss today. The first one is the transfer of 'Arafat's forces from some Arab countries to the autonomous region. The second issue, about which we would like to hear your comment, is the decision of the Arab interior ministers' conference to track down what they called terrorism; what they mean is chasing the Islamists in the Arab countries. What are your opinions on these two matters?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There is no doubt that the issue of transferring some Palestinian fighters from southern Lebanon—from the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon—to the autonomous region in the Gaza Strip is a suspect and rejected move. Instead of employing these forces to confront the Zionist enemy, which continues its attacks on the Lebanese people in the south and all over Lebanon, and instead of using these fighters from among the Palestinian people to stand alongside their brothers in the Islamic resistance, they are being moved to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region to protect this Zionist occupation and torture the Palestinian people. Therefore, such a step is suspect from both the nationalist and Islamist aspects.

With respect to the Arab interior ministers' decision to confront terrorism among the Arab people, this issue also falls within the framework of American and Zionist instigation to combat the Islamic movements in the Arab countries and to satisfy the American-Zionist camp. We believe that this recommendation cannot be approved by the Arab people, because it is not in the interest of the Arab people. It is a strange and abnormal move. When the trend among the Arab countries toward the Zionist enemy is dialogue and understanding, their trend toward Islamic movements in the Arab countries is oppression and eradication. This shows that whoever tries to pass such a recommendation is as close as can be to the Zionist policy.

[Hasan] Mr. Ghawshah, this also means that the Islamic movements constitute the vanguards in rejecting plans to Zionize the region. Is that not so?

[Ghawshah] We know that the Islamic movements are currently waging a struggle that we could call democratic to reach a political decision through the ballot boxes. However, the enemies of Islam, including the Europeans and Americans, are trying to fake and eliminate the determination of the nations. This is exactly what happened in Algeria. Their objective is to prevent these Islamic movements from reaching the government and from governing using God's laws. They fear that the position of the Zionists in Palestine and the designs of the Westerners over the region will be in a difficult position. That is why they are trying their best to strike the Islamic renaissance plan in its early stages.

[Hasan] Thank you very much sir.

[Ghawshah] I thank you and may God be with you.

Hamas Leader on Ties With Authority, Jordan

TA0501175795 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 2 Jan 95 p 2 (Tentative)

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, by Munir Abu-Rizq; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Rizq] What point have you reached in your contacts with the National Authority [NA]?

[Al-Zahhar] Those contacts have reached a dead end for two reasons. First, the Authority wants to shirk its responsibility regarding what happened on Friday, 18 November. In wake of the agreement reached by the mediation committee, it was decided to set up a committee comprising three persons from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and three from the Authority. We named three from our side, and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] named three. At the committee's first meeting, they said we represent Fatah, not the Authority. We rejected this and told them there is no problem between us and Fatah. Moreover, we said that we represent not only Hamas but also the factions that have been harmed by the Authority and that we have a mandate from them. Later, Hamas abroad contacted us and said that there is no problem between it and Fatah and that those who fired the bullets were policemen not Fatah elements. We then sat with Abu-'Ammar and clarified our position to him. He said that he will do all in his power to ensure that the residents' interests are taken into account.

At the committee's second meeting, the three insisted that they represent Fatah. We left the meeting and said that there is no such thing as a Fatah-Hamas committee. The committee formed in the name of Hamas and the Authority has not yet met.

The second reason is the Authority's recent raiding of the homes of Hamas members with the aim of collecting weapons. This is an extremely grave matter. I believe that under no circumstances will any person hand over his weapon. The Authority must bear the responsibility for what might happen. Hamas has maintained the purity of its weapons. It has not fired on any decent or untainted Muslim or Palestinian. The occupation exists in the West Bank, Jerusalem, the territories of 1948, and even in Gaza. It is a crime to take away the weapon of any person in order to serve the interest of Israel.

[Abu-Rizq] Let us go back to your talks with the Authority. In the event that you reach an agreement with the Authority, do you expect to reach a similar agreement with the other opposition factions?

[Al-Zahhar] Coordination with the opposition is a failed coordination. For example, their stance on the municipalities is erratic, while that of Hamas is firm. The Gaza municipality has been established on the basis of a decree, which we reject. The other opposition factions, however, have agreed to participate in the municipalities

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with the exception of the Gaza municipality. Consequently, we cannot say that coordination with the opposition means a unified stance on all matters.

[Abu-Rizq] Do you not believe that Hamas' recent operations will aggravate your relations with the NA and give Israel a pretext for not withdrawing from the West Bank and the rest of the Palestinian territories?

[Al-Zahhar] Is the Authority required to maintain control over Hamas?

[Abu-Rizq] But according to the agreement, it is required to control the security situation in the NA's areas.

[Al-Zahhar] According to the agreement, which does not obligate us, we are not required to stop jihad operations against the occupation. When the occupation withdraws from the territories and no Jew remains over them to commit murder, as happened with the case of Hani 'Abid, then one can talk about calm or not chasing a Jew. Therefore, it is a crime to talk about stopping operations or about the Authority's curbing Hamas.

Furthermore, 18 armed Jordanians have attacked Israeli positions from the Jordanian borders with Jordanian weapons. We have not heard that Jordan has killed anyone under the pretext of curbing the Islamists.

It is being alleged that Hamas' operations are causing embarrassment to the Authority; however, the Authority embarrassed itself when it signed this agreement.

[Abu-Rizq] But you are aware of the fact that a large number of your leaders and orders come from abroad, from Jordan, and that Israel is promoting the Jordanian option by trying to prove to the whole world that the NA is unable to control the situation and that, consequently, the Jordanian option is available.

[Al-Zahhar] First of all, this Israeli plan aims at kindling the fire of discord. Unfortunately, many in the Authority have adopted this aim. We receive no orders from the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. A Hamas information office operates there and can be closed down at any moment. Moreover, Hamas has the right to consult with everyone everywhere, but it makes the decisions here. Hamas' credentials stem from the fact that it exists on occupied territories and makes its own decisions. Everyone knows that whenever the Authority fails to achieve anything, it blames Hamas for the failure and accuses it of receiving orders from Jordan. Everyone is aware that Hamas has no organizational or dependency relationship with any regime, even Iran. Moreover, Hamas is facing restrictions in Jordan.

The Jordanian option is an Israeli option launched in London in 1985. So, this option was raised before Hamas began its military operations.

Let us suppose for argument's sake that Fatah eliminates Hamas—something that is impossible. This will not terminate the Jordanian option, but will accelerate it. At that time the PLO will become isolated and will have no military alternative to foil this option.

[Abu-Rizq] Does Hamas represent Islam?

[Al-Zahhar] It certainly does.

[Abu-Rizq] What about Islamic Jihad and the other Islamic factions?

[Al-Zahhar] I do not know. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Rizq] Reportedly there is a trend within Hamas, led by Musa Abu-Marzuq in Jordan and Shaykh [name as published] in Ramallah, that is calling for accepting the fait accompli.

[Al-Zahhar] This is wishful thinking by some people. Hamas is a large movement, and there are different views in it. In the final analysis the majority wins. Different viewpoints existed even during the prophet's era.

[Abu-Rizq] Scores of Hamas activists have joined the Authority's different organs such as the police, security, intelligence, and so forth. Have those deviated from Hamas?

[Al-Zahhar] Our policy calls for the participation of everyone in the construction process. There is no decision on preventing this, but some persons have deviated from the guidelines, and we have informed them of that. They are only one or two persons. Following the operation of martyr Ayman Radi, we expect the Authority to retain in the police department only those persons who belong to Fatah and the factions that support the agreement.

Hamas Documents Target Autonomous Authority

MM1001163595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 95 pp1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Mashariqah: "Document Reveals Hamas Plans Against Israel and Autonomy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, Amman—Sources close to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza and Jericho have disclosed that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has drawn up a plan aimed at isolating the Palestinian autonomous Authority at popular level, escalating the conflict with Israel, taking steps that would enhance its ability to lead the Palestinian masses, and intensifying suicide operations.

The sources say that the plan was outlined in a document entitled "a program of popular and political confrontations against the Gaza-Jericho agreement." AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the text of that document which, in its introduction, says that by confrontations is meant all the ways, means, plans, programs, arrangements, and elements Hamas can muster individually or in coordination with others, to be used against the occupation or the autonomous Authority.

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The document calls for a distinction to be made between the PA and Fatah to prevent unity of ranks against Hamas. It suggests creation of a number of popular foundations, especially a political party (political, national, Islamic grouping) drawn from patriotic opposition figures close to Hamas, with the aim of participating in the elections if no specific preconditions are imposed such as recognition of the Zionist entity.

The document also provides for the formation of "a higher committee for the defense of detainees" in the occupation prisons and those held by the autonomous Authority, as well as an anti-settlement association to prepare studies, statements, and reports on [Israeli] settlement and expose the truth regarding the agreement on that matter, and also a human rights organization that could be independent or a branch of an international organization, to observe human rights violations by the PA and to defend political detainees.

The document makes recommendations to Hamas leaders stressing the need for the formation of national reform committees to "protect the movement from repression, ease the intensity of clashes with Fatah and the Authority, prevent civil war, and take advantage of the tribal situation to produce agreements that would point the finger at the other side if it tries to violate them."

The document calls for a preconceived plan to infiltrate all popular unions as well as the autonomy institutions (police, ministries, government bodies) and project Islamic symbols as alternatives ready to lead the Palestinian people in the future.

The document of the proposed confrontation program calls for test strikes in Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank to test the PA's reactions, and direct the effective elements of the intifadah to the occupation's security centers, settlers, and external patrols. That is in addition to the escalation of operations to inflict maximum possible losses on the enemy to underscore the impossibility of coexistence and the lack of respect for charters...where, for instance, the enemy would be forced to pursue fugitives into the autonomy region, reoccupy an area, or impose a military siege on it. If the enemy leaves that task to the autonomous Authority, that would expose it to the masses as an occupation tool, a matter that would turn the masses against it. The document expects the drawbacks and disadvantages of the agreement to emerge clearly and perhaps demonstrate the conflict between the autonomy authority and the occupation on pending issues.

Hamas Officials Discuss Suicide Attacks

TA3012143194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 30 Dec 94 p 8

[Article by Mikhal Qafra: "Standing in Line To Commit Suicide"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 25 December, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist Ayman Radi perpetrated a suicide attack in Jerusalem. Carrying a bag filled with 10 kg of explosives, he attempted to get on a bus full of soldiers and perform Act Two of the Dizengoff bus blast. The driver closed the door on him, and he activated the explosives, wounding 12 people.

The Israeli chronicles of terror attacks constantly set new standards. An attack that left only 12 wounded is bound to be forgotten in a few days. The pictures from the Dizengoff blast set a very high standard of horror for potential victims and terrorists alike. Hamas, for example, was very disappointed with the low carnage score, and Israel is already busy with much more interesting matters, such as the soon-to-be-minister, Gonen Segev.

Yet, outside the scope of reckless daily affairs which tend to be forgotten the next day, a new phenomenon is evolving. Human beings are turning themselves into walking, talking, breathing weapons whose external human appearance hides their capacity for destruction. It is a local form of hara-kiri which, unlike its refined Japanese relative, brutally takes the lives of others as well. It introduces a new type of weapon into the battlefield, cleverly called "a man-bomb." [passage omitted]

Today, Hamas calls on activists who are willing to go out on suicide attacks to state so in a written document they are to hand to their superiors. A list is being drawn up. "Many people wrote such letters," a Hamas source said. "We collect the letters and instruct the people, and they await their turn." The process of getting a suicide attacker ready is not simple. First, he joins the Muslim Brotherhood, where he receives an education in religion and moral values. "We change their way of thinking," the source said in broken Hebrew. "We turn them into very religious people. They must pray five times a day, their family must be religious, and they must bring people to the mosques." Once their faith is strong enough, the right people are drafted into the military arm. "An activist is never told he should commit suicide. They wait for the man to come forward and say he is ready and willing to do it. No one is forced to do it. In their training, they are told that anyone who dies while taking the life of a Jew who seized our land will both go to heaven and go down in the history of the Palestinian nation. It gives them a feeling of importance and honor. When making the decision on who is to carry out the attack, care is taken to make sure that the person does not change his mind halfway."

[Qafra] How do you do that?

[Hamas source] We determine whether he is strong enough.

[Qafra] What if children want to carry out suicide attacks?

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[Hamas source] They are not allowed. The attack must succeed. After the person is selected, careful preparations are made. Information is collected about the precise location, the right time, and then the man is sent out.

[Qafra] Why not plant a bomb and run?

[Hamas source] There are more fatalities in a suicide attack. [end source] [passage omitted]

'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas Gaza leader who publishes the AL-WATAN newspaper, identified with Hamas, and runs a day-care center, received us in his office at the center. It is sparkling clean, and four- and five-year-old children run around the yard, in which there is one seesaw and an empty barrel. He spent four years in Israeli prisons. He is 35 years old, well educated, smart, and comes from a wealthy family. On his office walls hang pictures of injured orphans showing off their wounds: a smashed skull, a slashed leg, a scarred stomach.

"At the onset of the intifadah, Hamas undertook not to kill civilians, only soldiers and settlers," he said. "After the Hebron massacre, the Hamas military arm decided to act in the same way and attack civilians. After the Dizengoff attack, Hamas initiated an appeal to Israel, on Qol Yisra'el, offering to stop attacks on civilians under two conditions: that Israelis not murder Palestinian civilians and that they free all the Palestinian prisoners. Israel failed to respond, and Rabin said he does not speak with terrorists and murderers."

[Qafra] There is great fear of Hamas in Israel, but why suicide attacks?

[Al-Faluji, smiling] You pushed us into doing these things. We do not like carrying out such attacks. The Palestinian people believe that if they sacrifice themselves for a great cause that will inflict heavy casualties on the enemy, this may perhaps pressure the other side to restore our rights. A man who blows himself up believes that he is restoring his people's honor and that he will be rewarded by going to heaven.

[Qafra] Is there opposition within Hamas to this path?

[Al-Faluji] I have not heard of it.

[Qafra] Does the fact that Radi was a policeman have any political significance?

[Al-Faluji] It is irrelevant. If Israel expresses willingness to restore our rights, all violence will stop.

[Qafra] Has it created tension with 'Arafat?

[Al-Faluji] We do not talk to 'Arafat. He opposes terror attacks. There is a disagreement between us.

[Qafra] And where is the peace?

[Al-Faluji] Rabin does not want peace, only security. He keeps seizing lands. I do not believe Rabin.

[Qafra] So you blow people up?

[Al-Faluji] The Israeli Government must realize that it will have no security without restoring our rights. Rabin wants to make peace outside and forget about Palestinian rights. He will fail. There will be no domestic security. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Rome Conference Continues To Evoke Commentary

Bishop Condemns Conference

LD1001220195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Sant'Egidio meeting is being planned behind the scenes and in total secrecy. The bishop of Algiers [Monseigneur Tessier], who has categorically refused to take part in the Rome meeting, said that the friends of Sant'Egidio killed us. Over to Nacera Ait Salah:

[Ait Salah] The Sant'Egidio meeting is continuing in total secrecy and the condemnations are also continuing. The bishop of Algiers, who has refused to take part in the Rome meeting, said—it is the friends of Sant'Egidio who killed us. He added that he supported dialogue, but not with those who encouraged violence. He said there should never be any dialogue with killers. [passage omitted]

Haddam on 'Armed Struggle'

LD1001134895 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The main Algerian opposition parties and the Algerian Islamists continued their meeting in Rome today. On this, the second day of the meeting, the participants gave a joint news conference. We waited in particular for the Islamic Salvation Front—represented in Rome by Anouar Haddam—to give its position. You will hear Anouar Haddam; he does not explicitly condemn the Algerian armed groups. He was interviewed by Jerome Bastion:

[Begin Haddam recording] We have always said that the armed struggle is not an end in itself, but a means. Thus, if the goal sought by this means can be achieved by other, peaceful, civil means and I stress the word civil—then we are in favor. So far, the authorities in power, this military security establishment [last three words in English], which has always refused to accept the authority of an elected, civil, political government—so far this establishment [last word in English], has always refused any dialogue concerning the basic problems with regard to the Algerian crisis, and it has always owed its position to a power outside the constitutional institutions. That is why we have always refused to take part in such a scenario, but there is hope. [end recording]

Ben Bella Optimistic

LD1101105795 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The various elements of the Algerian opposition have been working together in Rome since last Sunday [8 January]. It is their second meeting of this kind. It seems to be a fruitful one, as they announced yesterday that they had agreed on a common platform to resolve the Algerian crisis and, mainly, to end the bloodshed. The agreement in principle will be signed today, and will later be submitted to the Algerian authorities.

One of those taking part in this unexpected dialogue between democrats and Islamists, former President Ben Bella, makes no secret of his satisfaction. He spoke to Emmanuel Delattre:

[Begin Ben Bella recording] We are going to agree with each other. We are going to decide on a platform binding all the political forces, all the political parties, for a real dialogue.

This agreement will be achieved, and I think that we have got a little further. Last time we came to get to know each other, to try to find out what we could do together. This time we changed gear, we have switched to another phase.

It is true that the authorities must take part in the dialogue, but if the authorities do not respond—and they are unlikely to respond—we will continue working together. This is it, quite simply. [end recording]

The elements of the Algerian opposition meeting in Rome received 78 percent of the vote in the 1992 general elections, that were interrupted by the military regime.

Other Participants Comment

LD1001210495 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 10 Jan 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The main Algerian opposition leaders, who have been meeting in Rome since 8 January and include some Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders currently in exile, today agreed on a peace plan to be submitted to the military authorities in Algiers. Our correspondent, Alain de Chalvron, has the details:

[Chalvron] At last, they have come out of their conclave. They are all here: Hocine Ait Ahmed [of the Socialist Forces Front]; Ahmed Ben Bella [leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria]; Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front]; Anour Haddam of FIS; and others. This means the news is significant:

[Ali Yahia Abdennour, chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights] *An agreement is going to be reached by tomorrow evening or on Thursday morning at the latest and an agreement is going to be reached about the main issues of interest for Algeria. Only people can appoint the authorities and all the institutions that must appoint [as said] the country. We want a dialogue to be able to settle the problems facing Algeria, and we want to start the dialogue with the authorities.*

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[Chalvron] In other words, those taking part in the Rome meetings are going to put the Algiers authorities in a corner: they are calling for elections and a dialogue. Everyone has hammered in the nail, including the FIS, of course:

[Anour Haddam, FIS representative abroad] *The current armed struggle is the consequence of a coup against the Algerian people. This armed struggle will end for good as soon as the military authorities accept the choice of the Algerian people.*

[Chalvron] But so does the FLN:

[Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN secretary general] *It is possible to give the Algerian people their rights to decide their future, to choose their institutions and the men representing them, so the ball is on the other side, in the court of the authorities.*

[Chalvron] [passage omitted]

Mehri on 'Real Dialogue'

LD1101094795 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The details of the Algerian opposition meeting in Rome are expected to be released tomorrow, but we already know that it aims to give the Algerian people the means to fully exercise their rights. Its supporters are all agreed on this, including Abdelhamid Mehri, the secretary general of the former single party, the National Liberation Front. He spoke to Jerome Bastion:

[Begin Mehri recording] It is possible to give the Algerian people their rights to decide their future, to choose their institutions and the men representing them, so the ball is in the court of the authorities. We are going to do our utmost to prepare the conditions for a real dialogue, but we are also going to extend our efforts so that there are no longer 1,000 deaths a week. We are going to say that it is not possible to call elections while announcing every week that 1,000 potential voters get killed. [end recording]

Prime Minister Speaks to Security Forces

LD1001202295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At noon today, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi visited the Republican National Security Units at Hamiz, and the Rapid Deployment Unit of the National Gendarmerie in Chraga. During the visit, the prime minister witnessed displays and demonstrations of the standard of training of the security officers. [passage omitted]

Sifi thanked everyone for their bravery and their gigantic daily work. During the visit, the prime minister made a speech in which he—in the name of the head of state and on behalf of the Government—saluted the security men—the policemen and gendarmerie—reaffirming to them that all official bodies in Algeria are with them.

[Begin Sifi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear brothers; I have come to you—you, the sons of our ideal Algeria—to offer you, in the name of the head of state and on behalf of the government and in the name of all the authorities in the country, our fraternal greetings and to express to you the appreciation and gratefulness of the Algerian State and people for the struggle you are waging and the sacrifices you are making so that our country will remain on its feet, free and independent. You are today at the vanguard of the struggle against the traitors and mercenaries and against the cowards who are slaughtering women and children and against those who are setting schools ablaze. You are the youth, the security men, who are an embodiment of the living symbol of this Algeria which wants to triumph and which will inevitably triumph.

It will triumph against sedition and heresy, and will triumph over ignorance. It will triumph over all the conspiracies. The world has seen your picture, and the world realizes that terrorism will not be able to do a thing to confront you. I have come to say to you that Algeria will on the morrow be rid of all its ailments, and that your sons will be proud of you. Continue to defend your country, as your country pins all its hopes on you and needs you. Please know that you are not alone, as the government and the cadres, workers, and the free female and male citizens are with you, supporting you in waging the same battle in order that Algeria will long live free and prosperous, modern, tolerant, democratic and enjoying security and in peace, and so that our children and grandchildren may live in security and prosperity, and so that the Algerian flag will continue to fly high and the national anthem be played sweetly to the ears throughout the homeland and in all capitals of the world. Long live Algeria, free and dignified despite its malaise and enemies. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

'Terrorists' Kill 4 Civilians Leaving Mosque

LD1001175595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Terrorism has struck again. Four civilians were assassinated and a fifth was seriously wounded in Barika, Batna Province yesterday. The victims were shot by terrorists as they were leaving a mosque.

Elsewhere, the fight against terrorism is continuing. Seventeen terrorists were killed by the security forces between Saturday and Tuesday [7-10 January] in the provinces of Tiaret, Tipaza, and Blida. A large quantity of weapons was recovered during these operations.

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Egypt

'Arafat Visit, Meetings With Mubarak Conclude

. .'Arafat Departs

NC1101102395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning after a two-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. During the visit, the Palestinian president also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa Describes Talks

NC1001152395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said after a two-hour meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today that the talks dealt with developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, notably the redeployment of Israeli forces in the occupied territories, the Israeli settlement policy, security, and other related matters.

He added: It is clear that there are problems, and we hope the upcoming meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will solve, or at least help reach an agreement on immediate and speedy handling of, the two main problems—the settlements and the redeployment—in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the rules of international law.

He said the talks with President 'Arafat will continue this afternoon and that the Palestinian president will leave Cairo tomorrow.

On whether Mr. 'Arafat has asked Egypt to help solve the problem of Israeli settlements, Musa said: The Palestinian president and the Israeli prime minister will meet soon. We will wait to see the results of this important meeting, which will discuss settlements and the redeployment of the Israeli forces.

Asked about an announcement following a meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday that progress was made on the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, Musa said: The 'Arafat-Peres meeting yesterday was beneficial, according to President 'Arafat. All the issues that were discussed yesterday will be again in the upcoming 'Arafat-Rabin meeting, including the status of Palestinian prisoners.

The foreign minister said that the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting will be extremely important, providing an opportunity to discuss settlements, Palestinian prisoners, and redeployment.

Musa explained that as far as he knows, there is no deadline for resolving these issues. But there should be one, he said, and during the meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin a date should be set.

He pointed out that the building of Israeli settlements is not only against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but also against international law. According to the Geneva Convention, he said, any changes in the geographic, demographic, or legal status of the occupied territories or to their border are not allowed.

He said there is an agreement between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian self-rule authority, and introducing any changes in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, conflicts with the spirit of the agreement.

Asked to comment on a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday that Israel should prepare for an all-out war in the near or distant future, Musa said: I have not read this statement, but talking about an all-out war soon or in the distant future is against the entire spirit of peace. I do not think that such statements are useful.

Asked whether the current settlement measures in the West Bank require early negotiations on the future of settlements, Musa said this should be discussed. He noted that the questions of settlements and redeployment will be discussed during the 'Arafat- Rabin meeting in two days.

Musa stressed that the settlement issue harms the Declaration of Principles, the present and future of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track, and the present and future of the peace process.

Asked about Egypt playing the role of a mediator between the Palestinians and the Israelis at the same time it is refusing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and how this is going to affect the peace process, Musa said the problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis are related to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. Israel's nuclear armament is another problem, he said.

The latter problem, Musa explained, affects the future of the region, and peace cannot be achieved unless we talk about political agreements, economic cooperation, and the security of the region. He added: "This is how we view things, and they cannot be separated from the problem of Israel's nuclear armament."

Asked whether there will be a dialogue with the United States over the Israeli settlements as an obstacle to the peace process, Musa said: "Indeed, this should be discussed with the United States, especially since the Israeli settlement policy harms the entire peace process; it does not only affect the future of Palestinians, but the future of the entire peace process."

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The foreign minister explained that the existing Israeli settlements, over which there will be negotiations, should not be expanded.

Musa reiterated the importance of the upcoming meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin and said that the Israeli prime minister fully appreciates how important the settlement policy is to peace. We are looking forward to the results of this meeting, he said.

The foreign minister noted one positive Israeli step—the recent Israeli Government decision to stop building a new settlement.

On President 'Arafat's reaction to the Alexandria summit, Musa said the Palestinian president is very satisfied with the results of the summit.

Al-Azhar Imam Labels 'Terrorists' Criminals

NC1001172595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Mansurah, 10 Jan (MENA)—Al-Azhar grand imam, His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, has described the perpetrators of terrorist acts as criminals who must receive appropriate punishment. It is not right that they be attributed to Islam and Muslims, he said.

Speaking during a meeting today with the students and teaching staff of al-Mansurah University, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq said Egyptian society desperately needs discipline in all its affairs. He pointed out the important role of the family, school, and society in instilling the correct ethics and manners in the souls of the sons.

He called on universities and research centers to study the social diseases and evil social phenomena that have recently spread out into society which violate the teaching of the Koran and Prophet Muhammad's tradition.

The al-Azhar imam warned against raising marginal controversial issues that harm Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

3 Acquitted, 13 Sentenced in Mahfuz Case

NC1001130895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—The Higher Military Court today passed death sentences against two defendants in the attempted assassination of prominent writer Najib Mahfuz. The case involved 16 defendants.

The court acquitted three defendants, sentenced two to life with hard labor, one to 15 years with hard labor, and another to seven years with hard labor. The court also passed five-year prison sentences on two defendants and three-year prison sentences against five defendants.

Japan Provides 94 Million Yen for Irrigation

NC1001184095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Japan today signed an agreement under which Egypt will receive 94 million Japanese yen (approximately $940,000) to finance the designs for a project to rehabilitate al-Lahun barrages in the Bahr Yusuf region, which irrigate 770,000 feddans in the governorates of Asyut, al-Minya, Bani Suwayf, al-Fayyum, and al-Jizah.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state at the cabinet for international cooperation affairs, and for Japan by the Japanese ambassador in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Koreans Begin New Offshore Oilfield Production

NC1001140095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—A responsible source at the Petroleum Ministry has stated that the al-Za'faranah Oilfield in the Gulf of Suez begins production as of today. He said that the production of the new oilfield, which is located in the concession area of the South Korean Yukong Company , is expected to reach 54,000 barrel per day. Its production lifetime will be 18 years. The source noted that the new oilfield is considered the first to be operated by the Korean company in Egypt, as its previous activities were confined to carrying out services for the petroleum industry. It should be recalled that the South Korean company won the concession to participate in oil discoveries in June 1989 and that signs of the presence of oil began to appear in 1991. Since then the company has been drawing up programs on its options and initial discoveries at a cost of $25 million.

Morocco

Extraordinary Session of Parliament Called

LD0901135195 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives will hold today an extraordinary session at the request of the government. The office of the Speaker of the House had issued a statement to that effect announcing that this session will be held according to chapter 39 of the Constitution, and that it will begin at 1530 GMT this afternoon.

Opposition Discusses Formation of New Government

LD1001172595 Rabat MAP in English 1256 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jan. 10 (MAP)—Prospects of fulfilling the call launched by King Hassan

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II last October to form a government led by an opposition party leader was at the center of meetings held Sunday by leading bodies of three opposition parties: The Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP) and the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS).

The political parties' meetings were held following the meeting held Thursday between their leaders and the sovereign's advisor Ahmed Reda Guedira.

According to Ahmed El Yazghi, interim first secretary of the USFP, the party's meeting is meant to intensify contacts and consultations between members of the party's central committee on various national issues. The meeting is also part of the contacts undertaken with the USFP allies (OADP and Istiqlal Party) as well as with the Party for Progress and Socialism, the four opposition parties forming the democratic bloc.

The USFP leader who underlined the party's concern to gather all conditions for the success of the alternation experiment added that the PPS, and two other progovernment parties, namely the National Rally of Independents and the National Popular Movement, are ready to support the program of the three allied parties.

For Mohamed Bensaid Ait Idder, OADP secretary general, the meeting of the party's central committee was meant to define a position concerning participation in the projected government. He voiced hope that the OADP central committee will reach important decisions as the political situation of the country is going through some difficulties.

The PPS also summoned its central committee to debate developments of the domestic political situation. Ali Yata, PPS secretary general, voiced hope that a new government of "renewal, progress and [word indistinct]" will come into being shortly to handle in the best conditions the country's affairs.

The PPS meeting, held following an audience granted to the PPS leader by King Hassan II last December 27, was an opportunity to assess contacts between the PPS and its three allies within the democratic bloc (namely, the USFP, the PI and the OADP).

The PPS central committee agreed to hold a meeting with the three other opposition parties to debate issues related to the projected government's program.

Trial Begins for Accused in Armed Attacks

LD1101103295 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The trial began today at the Fes Court of Appeal of the 18 persons involved in the armed criminal acts committed last summer in the towns of Fes and Marrakech.

[Correspondent, over video] The Court of Appeal in Fes and the first public appearance of those accused of having committed armed attacks of last summer. The trial began today of the 18 persons who were involved in those events listed in this dossier. After dealing with various aspects of the case and following more than four months of jusdicial investigations in Morocco and abroad, the dossier enters a new phase with the appearance of the defendants before the Fes Court of Appeal.

During the first session and after the appearance of the defendants before the Court, chaired by Maitre Abdelnour Gebari, and the establishment of the identities of the defendants, the defense—as expected—made several formal submissions which basically concerned the formation of the defense and the Court. The Court rejected all these formal submissions in accordance with the law. According to the charges which this dossier entails the 18 defendants are divided into two groups—a main group of seven persons and a second group consisting of 11 defendants who are being tried on charges relating to assisting a criminal gang to hide, and facilitating the escape and not informing the authority.

This trial has attracted the interest of the national and international press, especially the French.

[Announcer] The Fes Court of Appeal at a second session this evening accepted the request of the defense to adjourn the case. The date of the next sitting has been fixed at 18 January.

Royal Amnesty Granted for Certain Prisoners

LD1101101395 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tomorrow the Moroccan people will mark the 51st anniversary of the presentation of the document demanding independence. [passage omitted].

On this immortal national anniversary, a royal amnesty has been issued in the interest of a group of prisoners. This came in a communique by the Justice Ministry, which said:

His Majesty the King, may God prolong his glory and render him victorious, has issued his order—on the occasion of the presentation [to France] of the document demanding independence on 11 January 1944—granting a pardon of the remainder of their jail terms to [illegible] prisoners. It also reduces the terms of imprisonment for 28 prisoners, transforms life imprisonment to a specific imprisonment term for one prisoner, releases 34 prisoners from the remainder of their sentence but maintains the fines imposed on them, and releases six people from their imprisonment and fines. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government Rejects UN, Eritrean Role in Talks

EA1001162995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement concerning the mediation of the

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Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states in resolving the southern problem. The statement said that, from the beginning, Sudan's acceptance of this mediation arose from its conviction that regional states could perform a beneficial role under the umbrella of regional cooperation and mutual help between states to overcome internal problems and thereby avert the specter of foreign intervention.

Based on these principles, Sudan was among the first countries to herald a positive political role for the IGADD which would also guarantee the sovereignty of states and the freedom to make decisions without interference in their internal affairs, the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry statement added that Sudan's interpretation of the IGADD states' mission to resolve the southern problem fel within this framework and that the nature and role of mediation efforts should be acceptable to the Government of Sudan and should not be subject to any arbitration or guardianship offered by any regional state in consideration of internal problems.

The statement further noted that the proposal of the IGADD states made in their recent meeting in Nairobi concerning the appointment of a new side in the mediation effort consisting of a UN observer did not meet with the approval of Sudan. The statement stressed that the IGADD states did not consult Sudan on the matter neither did it even consult Sudan on the convening of the meeting held on 4 January.

The statement added that, in the light of these facts, the Government of Sudan considers the appointment of a UN observer inadmissible and will therefore not work with him.

The statement stressed the importance of total neutrality within the mediating committee. It said Eritrea's recent sudden decision to sever its relations with Sudan and the complaints against Sudan it forwarded to the Security Council disqualified it from participating in the mediating committee of IGADD.

Article Alleges France Aiding Fundamentalism

BR1001135095 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 7 Jan 95 p 8

[Article by Marco Tosatti: " 'France, Sponsor of Fundamentalism'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] France is two-faced when it comes to Islamic fundamentalism: Officially it presents itself as the champion of the "hard line," whereas in reality it helps and protects the country where radical fundamentalism is forged, the Sudan of 'Umar al-Bashir. This allegation against Paris is made by the Netherlands section of the "Pax Christi" [Peace of Christ missionary] organization, and backed up with a well-documented report published in Italy by the Combonian fathers in NIGRIZIA magazine. Of course, the radical Islamic movements sustained by Khartoum include the Algerian movement, so the end result is that France, in a paradoxical osmosis between communicating vessels, is allegedly helping its own enemies.

The first signs of rapprochement date back to the beginning of 1993, when French journalists, scientists, and public figures were invited to visit Sudan, while "various provinces were introducing French as one of the compulsory subjects at upper secondary school." Paris responded promptly: After an intensive schedule of visits by French secret service agents, at least four official Sudanese delegations visited France between October 1993 and January 1994 for extended talks with high-ranking Defense Ministry officials. The Interior Ministry, headed by Charles Pasqua, also took on a major role in the new "entente cordiale" almost from the outset, culminating in the handing over of the terrorist Carlos, whereas it would appear to date that the Foreign Ministry has been kept off the playing field.

France sees the alliance as an episode in the "great game" that it has been playing against Britain since the last century (remember Fashoda?). Uganda, and President Yoweri Museveni in particular, are aspects of the "Anglo-Saxon threat to French influence in Africa. That explains why France's priority is to keep Uganda's growing influence in the Great Lakes area under control." Uganda helped the Rwandan Patriotic Front (the Tutsis), the enemy of Habyarimana, who was under French protection; and John Garang's anti-al-Bashir resistance movement (SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army])—at war in animist, Christian, southern Sudan since 1985 against the Islamic regime from the north—has support in Uganda.

According to Pax Christi, the alliance came into force in 1994. Sudanese government troops attacked the SPLA from bases in the Central African Republic and Zaire, both of which are in the area of French influence, and, what is more, the Sudanese were able to plan their attack using photographs "taken, in all probability, from the 'Spot' satellite, capable of picking up troop and vehicle movements," supplied by Paris. Moreover, Pax Christi alleges, "about 100 Sudanese police officers have been trained by France, which has also offered Sudan technical assistance and equipment."

There would be little wrong with all this if Sudan had not featured since 1992 on the list of countries accused of supporting terrorism, and if it were not subject to a European Union embargo (arms and military equipment), and if it were not the hearth from which the flames of Islamic fundamentalism are spreading. Hasan al-Turabi and his friend and rival Muhammad Taha, the leaders of the National Islamic Front, are the ideologues behind the spread of the Islamic revolution to other countries. In practice, Khartoum supports the Jihad organization in Eritrea, the fundamentalist groups in Chad and Kenya, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic

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Group] in Egypt, and forces in Somalia and Ethiopia. About 1,000 anti-Museveni Ugandans are being trained at Juba, while al-Turabi "is in direct contact with the Afghan mojahedin, the Palestinians of Hamas, and the members of the Algerian FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]." Pax Christi states that one of Paris's first demands was "a call on Sudan to put an end to attempts at Islamicinfiltration in countries in the area of French influence." In exchange, France promised its support to the Sudan in avoiding being the first country to be expelled from the International Monetary Fund. For the time being its expulsion, scheduled for last August, has been postponed.

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Bahrain

Opposition: Police Fire Live Rounds on Protesters

NC1001183295 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 10 (AFP)—Security forces fired live bullets at demonstrators in further clashes in Bahrain, an exiled opposition group said Tuesday [10 January].

In Barbar near the capital Manama, a helicopter hovered overhead as security forces "fired real bullets to disperse the crowd" on Monday, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said in a statement to AFP received in Cyprus.

The protesters were demanding the restoration of parliament, suspended in 1975, and the release of people arrested in December clashes, the statement said, without giving any casualty figures.

The Beirut-based opposition group said protesters in Bilad al-Qadim, also near Manama, had thrown up roadblocks and burned tires on Sunday and Monday to stop police who were trying to gain control of the area using teargas.

Similar clashes flared Monday in Karzakkan, south of Manama.

The situation in the capital and mainly Shiite Muslim villages was tense, with security forces maintaining a strong presence, the IFLB added.

The London-based Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain said Tuesday in a statement to AFP that 2,486 people had been arrested.

Previously it said 2,370 people had been detained in the first wave of unrest following the arrest of Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman on December 5.

The committee said five of those held were reported to have been "tortured to death," and it denounced "human rights abuses" in the Gulf archipelago.

It also confirmed an IFLB report that eight Bahrainis had been expelled from the country on January 5 and sent to Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates.

The opposition said 15 died in the December clashes, but the Sunni-led Bahraini authorities have only said one policeman was killed.

'Source': AFP Reporting 'Illusionary Incidents'

JN1001185995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1758 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 10 Jan (WAKH)—A Bahraini Information source has said the people of Bahrain are astonished about the AFP position which carries much false and inaccurate information obtained from suspicious sources that do not have any roots inside Bahrain.

The source added: We are astonished because some civilized states believe these lies, which are carried by some mass media for sensational purposes.

The information source said such exaggerated information on illusionary incidents and figures have undermined the credibility of this agency in particular and some radios that carry its news in general, especially French radios.

The source stressed that Bahrain enjoys security and stability, and that any incidents that take place in Bahrain are under control and cannot influence the atmosphere of peace Bahrain enjoys.

The information source urged sisterly Arab and friendly states to be on the alert against the news this agency carries because it is far from being accurate and true.

Kuwait

Iranian Official Continues Visit, Comments

'Optimistic' on Gulf Relations

LD1001224995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2115 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 10 Jan (KUNA)—[Passage indistinct] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that he was optimistic about relations in the Gulf region. In a statement to the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, he added: "What I have heard from officials here made me optimistic about the future of the region's affairs and the relations between its states, be they Iranian-Kuwaiti or Iranian-Gulf relations".

Hashemi made this statement following a round of lengthy talks he held with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, which lasted over three hours.

Mohammad Hashemi, who started his official visit to Kuwait yesterday and who will conclude it tomorrow, has so far met a number of senior Kuwaiti officials.

He also said that "a very cordial atmosphere" prevailed over his talks with al-Shahin, which he will continue tomorrow, and with Kuwaiti officials, and that these talks reflected "totally identical views" on the existence of numerous areas and opportunities for joint action which would enable the Kuwaiti and Iranian sides to develop and bolster their bilateral ties in all areas.

With regard to the Gulf issues, Hashemi hinted that "there exists what we can call mutual ambiguity or confusion with regard to views on those issues" between us and the Kuwaiti side. However he reaffirmed: "We

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are convinced that continuation of the discussion would lead us to identity of views in this regard."

Al-Shahin shared Hashemi's affirmation that the ideas which were submitted within the review of bilateral relations "were identical and based on approximate foundations based on the actual wish to bolster these relations in a manner that yields benefit for both the peoples and governments of Kuwait and Iran." He referred to both countries' desire at the current stage to concentrate on bolstering the ties between them by way of taking urgent and practical steps to make these ties better.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry undersecretary said that even before it had been undertaken, Hashemi's visit and the planning for it had been fruitful. "Perhaps the most important of its aspects was the agreement of the two sides to activate the role of the Kuwaiti- Iranian political committee" which they had been leading.

According to al-Shahin, agreement had been reached concerning the convening of this committee every 6 months in Tehran and Kuwait alternately in the hope of polarizing clear policies and attitudes toward various bilateral and regional issues.

He described their talks as "expanded and deep" and they permitted the exchange of views on international questions and all the issues of the Gulf area which had received the attention of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], headed by the nature of the relationship with Iraq in the light of its policies. [passage indistinct]

Accuses U.S. of Backing 'Terrorist Schemes'

LD1101113895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Jan—Iranian Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today accused the United States, Israel, and other states in the Middle East, which he did not name, of sponsoring terrorist operations and violence in the world to serve their interests and policies.

In the course of replying to a question at a news conference within the framework of his three-day visit to Kuwait which is due to end later today, he said: Terrorist schemes and operations are being called for and backed by these states. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Discusses 'Incident' With Yemeni President

LD1001192895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone contact took place today between His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During this contact numerous issues were discussed, including developments concerning the relations between the two countries, and the efforts to contain the incident which took place this morning, Tuesday, 10 January 1995, in the south-eastern region, so as to deprive the enemies of the two neighboring countries of opportunities and serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples, strengthen the brotherly and good neighborly relations between them, and consolidate the march of security, stability, and peace in the region.

Interior Minister Holds News Conference

LD0601150895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0247 GMT 6 Jan 95

[Report on news conference by Interior Minister Nayif bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud—all quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, 6 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'abd-Al-'aziz, the interior minister, honorary president of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers and chairman of the Arab Center of Security Studies and Training, held a news conference at his residence in Tunis this afternoon at the end of the 12th session of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers. [passage omitted]

On the recent Alexandria summit and border issues, his highness said: "First of all, we as Arab citizens think that the Alexandria summit was a positive step and that it brought about excellent results. Moreover, a clear path has been defined as to how the Arab nation should be.

"As regards the second part of your question, I would like to say really that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not have a specific policy on the border issue, nor does it refuse to discuss this with its Arab brethren. We are neighbors to eight Arab states and all subjects pertaining to borders are closed now and have been written out in agreements and reflected on maps and in nature."

Prince Nayif bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz added: "There is no problem between us and sisterly Yemen. Moreover, the Kingdom's view is that we must reach a fraternal and amicable agreement which takes into account the views of both sides. There were indeed meetings, but unfortunately they have been suspended for a while and, God willing, they will resume soon. We understand from our brothers in Yemen that they wish to close this subject. This wish has been confirmed in an exchange of letters between the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen."

His highness also stressed "the desire of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to maintain relations of good-neighborliness and amicable and brotherly relations because the border guards and officials in the areas close to Yemen have been instructed to cooperate and reach an understanding from the premise of brotherhood,

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amity, and love in order to settle any problem on the border. We do not have any other problem with any Arab state at all."

In reply to a question on Arab security and on human rights in the kingdom, the interior minister said: "As regards Arab security, I believe the Council of Arab Interior Ministers covered this aspect and, as you know, the resolutions issued and announced by the council mean that all interior ministers reached an understanding in all areas. Praise be to God, the Council of Arab Interior Ministers is one of the Arab councils where there is always consensus and agreement and more cooperation and progress. I hope that these resolutions will be implemented.

Regarding the second part of the question, the kingdom's viewpoint has been clarified in this respect and will be further clarified in the international and Arab arenas.

We proudly say that human rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are fully respected and we implement this policy from a source which we firmly believe is stronger and more honorable than any other document on human rights, be it international or Arab. We derive human rights from God's Book and the Sunna of His prophet, prayers and peace upon him. This is the source which has given man all his rights and which really protects him in any situation by respecting his rights in all areas as provided by Islamic Shari'ah. Praise be to God, this is fully applied in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without any hesitation and regardless of man's mistakes because these things happen. However, if the real issue is the implementation by states [as received] and if we are told "you are not in line with Islam's rulings on human rights," then we can talk about this. If the objection is against Islamic Shari'ah, we totally reject this and we say: We will abide by Islamic Shari'ah, which guarantees human rights because we are believers and we will stick to that with the best reference and source for human rights than any other thing, namely Islamic Shari'ah.

In reply to a question on the absence of the Qatari interior minister from this meeting and on the statements made by some that this was due to the Saudi-Qatari dispute, his highness said: "The truth is that regarding the absence of Qatar from the Arab interior ministers' meeting, we as Arab interior ministers as a whole regret that Qatar's seat was empty. We are used to finding all interior ministers present. However, this matter could be raised with the dear brother Shaykh 'Abdallah bin-Khalifa in Qatar and he will be able to answer this question. Nevertheless the basic rule is that any dispute between two states should not prevent anyone from attending a meeting, be it that of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers or that of the interior ministers in the Gulf Coooperation Council.

In fact, and from what I know, there is no problem between us and Qatar and there is no border dispute. What is propagated or said is not always true and I know that. We respect and value Qatar and we regard Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as one country. However, things happen and are done by individuals or persons and these things are insignificant and can be solved even at the level of the chiefs of border posts.

The interior minister added: "As far as we are concerned, we do not have a problem with them at all and I must stress this. The agreement between us and Qatar is well known and I also mentioned the recent agreement, namely the agreement signed in al-Madinah two years ago and which was attended by President Husni Mubarak, although in fact as GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, our relations and problems are dealt with at a bilateral level. However, we regard the participation of an Arab brother as normal because basically there is no border problem between us and Qatar, for the border issue was dealt with comprehensively and in the documents of the previous and subsequent agreement [as received], which ended all matters in the way I have already talked about. This agreement was adopted as a document by the Arab League and the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Thus the Kingdom stood by Iraq because it is an Arab state with an Arab people, and Iraq must stay as it is. The position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is that Iraq's borders must remain as they are and its territorial integrity must not be undermined since it is an Arab state with an Arab people who must continue to live. [passage omitted]

As regards the Iran issue, the truth is that for many years the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has said that Iran is an Islamic state and a neighboring state, especially to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the GCC member states, and also Iraq, and that therefore normal relations are necessary in Iran's interests and the interests of Iran's neighboring states. We in the Kingdom, and I know that my brother officials in the GCC member states share this feeling, hope for the day when relations between us and Iran are normal.

He added: "We have heard a similar desire expressed by the Iranians and we said we welcome this because we in the GCC and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular did not do anything against Iran. On the contrary. Many things happened and they are well known and no secret to anyone and the Kingdom's stand was clear. Unfortunately, the wrongs came from Iran against the Kingdom and against Iran's neighboring states of the Arabian Gulf. We hope to see an end to this... and this is up to the Iranians, and we hope they will achieve this so that these relations can be normal, in Iran's interest and the interest of its neighboring countries because it is in the interests of our entire region to have room for conflicts, disagreements, or tension.

Regarding alms and the ways of their spending and what can reach the extremist movements, his highness said: "Let us deal with the first part of the question—the alms. As a matter of fact the alms-giving is one of the duties of every Muslim male and female and I would like to

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reaffirm that Saudis have totally rejected that the alms on his monies should find their way into illegitimate places, as the Koran and the sunnah of the prophet stipulated." [passage omitted]

His highness added: "There are channels open between the Kingdom and many of the fraternal Arab countries, as cooperation in this sphere is inevitable. Therefore if we were told that monies—alms or otherwise—had found their way into illegitimate places, we would take all measures to prevent this from happening." His Highness the interior minister added: "I hope that neither the Saudi people nor the Government will shoulder any responsibility in this regard because we reject that totally. The State and the Saudi people reject this." [passage omitted]

His Highness Prince Nayif Bin Abd al-Aziz went on to say: "Definitely there are confirmed issues in this regard. But you cannot depend on words being said. On the contrary, we blame some of the Arab papers and media organs that write about this without providing the evidence with which the Saudi people or the State or the Government can take the necessary measures to direct these funds the right and charitable way."

As for the second part of the question, His Highness said: "What did happen was actually announced by the Interior Ministry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We were deeply pained by such a thing. But regrettably this resulted from dealing or from some Arab brothers; this is what happened—the result of detaining this number, the majority of whom were released. There remains a small group, as has been announced. They are still being investigated.

"Regrettably it has become apparent from the early investigation that this group has relations with organizations outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that pursue this unsound path not only as far as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is concerned, but also the Arab nation; at the same time, it contradicts the correct Islamic path by which we as an Islamic nation have the honor of being guided."

He said: "Investigations are still being conducted and it is premature for us to decide that there are persons who could be released after the investigations and some with whom investigations should continue. Ultimately matters will be referred to justice. Regrettably I must say that those whom we have in detention now are Saudis."

Asked about the Arab interior ministers' condemnation of the phenomena of extremism and terrorism and the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the subject and whether there have been any changes in that position as a result of the events that took place in some Arab countries, especially Egypt and Algeria, Prince Nayif said: "The Saudi position on this subject is clear and this was expressed on several occasions by the Saudi leadership and also by the government and the Council of Ministers and Saudi officials who held meetings with the press or the media on all subjects relating to this matter.

Moreover, there is something important on the subject, namely that the ulemas in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have spoken about it and their views published by numerous media. They said that the acts that are being carried out have nothing to do with Islam. [passage omitted]

Asked about the possible existence of a strategy to combat terrorism inside the Kingdom and to what extent the Kingdom is prepared to support other countries in combatting the phenomenon of terrorism, especially with regard to financing and harboring some terrorists, his highness said: "The problem exists primarily in Algeria and to a much lesser extent in Egypt. This pains us and pains every Muslim and every Arab and we pray God to help Algeria and Egypt end this painful situation which harms the interests, stability, and development of the state anywhere."

His highness added: This is naturally an internal matter and I say to all the brothers in Algeria, in the state, the government, and organizations, that they must take care of the Algerian man and preserve his life because we hear media reports "and naturally we say that these media are responsible for this, and we also hear from official sources that in the past ten months, 35,000 people have been killed in Algeria," and the majority or rather the overwhelming majority of these are members of the public who in fact have nothing to do with this subject. [passage omitted]

His Highness the Minister of Interior added to this by saying: As to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia offering to be made a headquarters for any action or even a corridor for harming any Arab state or even harboring any of them, I would like to stress that this is something that we would never agree to in any way whatsoever.

In order to be certain about these things, as I said in reply to a previous question, the channels are open for cooperation in this matter. I stress that we absolutely would not allow anyone, whether he be a Saudi national or a resident in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to work against any Arab state, We do not accept that we should be the center for any action against any other state because we reject unlawful action in any form whatsoever.

I would like to say that as far as the Kingdom is concerned, the existence of instability in any Arab state is something that pains the Kingdom and no doubt, by virtue of its position as an Islamic and Arab state, this matter is important to it. Some of the negative consequence of a situation in any Arab state undoubtedly could reach the Kingdom.

I would like to say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, first with God's help and second by the cohesion of the broad base of the Saudi people with the leadership, is capable of confronting events. God willing, it is very

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capable because there is no possibility for destabilizing security and stability in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in any form or shape whatsoever.

I would like to stress that the hand that reaches out in order to tamper with the security of the Saudi citizen or the security of Saudi Arabia by anyone, whosoever he may be—whether a Saudi national or a non-Saudi—with the help of God Almighty and the guidance of the Islamic Shari'ah, we are capable of cutting it off.

Regarding the Egyptian proposal, which was submitted to the Arab Interior Ministers Council on the joint confrontation of terrorism, and whether the establishment of a committee to study this issue is a mere postponement or exclusion of the issue, His Highness said: "First, I am thankful for such a question because it may contain a reply to the previous question on terrorism. This is because there is now a unanimity among all the interior ministers to avoid this issue and to formulate a vision and a plan of action to confront this issue, correct the concept, and underline the facts and deal with them. Naturally His Excellency the Egyptian interior minister, Brother Major General Hasan al-Alfi submitted a concept on this issue which the Arab Interior Ministers Council looked at. In view of the importance of this issue, it has been decided, unanimously or semi-unanimously or by a majority of members of the Council, to study the matter. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about Israel's attempts to hasten the normalization of relations with the Arab states, his highness said: "I believe that a reply to this question has been issued by the Alexandria summit, and the Kingdom is committed to what has been issued by that summit."

In reply to a question about the link between terrorism, drugs, and the question of possible financial assistance to Lebanon to compensate for the loss of cultivating drugs, his highness said: "As far as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is concerned, and as I have pointed out, there is a relationship between drugs and terrorism; there is a link between drugs and crime. This is true, and the undermining of Saudi or any Arab society or any other society is quite clear and agreed upon. I have heard from colleagues at our meeting that there is a relationship between drugs and terrorism. The brothers who suggested that know the truth of the matter. In actual fact, we appreciate and are thankful for the banning of drug cultivation by Lebanon and the fact that Lebanon will continue to impose this ban. Lebanon has not asked the Council to discuss this matter."

Yemen

Salih Discusses 'Incidents' With Fahd Over Phone

JN1001184995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1830 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, has conducted a telephone conversation with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

In the conversation, the two leaders discussed a number of issues and developments in bilateral relations, in addition to efforts to contain the incidents which broke out Tuesday [10 January] morning in northeastern areas.

House Speaker Denies Troop Deployments on Saudi Border

MM1101100095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram: "Al-Ahmar: Border Arrangements After 'Ali Salih Visit to Riyadh"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives [leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping], has said that current consultations and contacts between the leaderships in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia "confirm the two countries' intention to move forward toward accord, harmony, and amity in a manner that restores Yemeni-Saudi relations to their normal status."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Sanaa yesterday Shaykh 'Abdallah stressed that "the arrangements concerning the border issue and the normalization of relations will be decided after the summit which will be held in the coming days between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, since the final date for President 'Ali Salih's visit to Riyadh has not been fixed yet."

He added: "The summit meeting is in itself a great achievement and a very advanced step toward restoring relations between the two countries to their normal status. It is expected to produce positive results as regards a settlement to the border issue and relations between the two countries and the two fraternal peoples in a manner guaranteeing further progress and development for these relations."

On a visit to Riyadh by a Yemeni delegation led by him before 'Ali Salih's arrival there, al-Ahmar said: "Consultations are continuing between Riyadh and Sanaa, and such delegations to exchange visits. However, I have no knowledge of the delegation about which some media services are talking. Nor do I have any knowledge of the date of its visit to Riyadh, or the names of the members of this delegation as of this moment."

Concerning reports that there are deployments on both sides of the Yemeni-Saudi border, he said: "The allegations about military deployments and imaginary disputes are spread by tendentious people who are not pleased with the rapprochement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. I cannot assert that there are Saudi deployments on the Yemeni border. And there are no Yemeni deployments on the Saudi border. Actually what the Yemeni Government is doing now is returning the

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Armed Forces which participated in the battle to defend unity to their positions in the northern, northeastern, and northwestern areas. I confirm that these forces are returning to the positions in which they were stationed before the recent war against the treacherous secessionists of the Yemeni Socialist Party. We cannot say that these movements are military deployments."

Concluding, he said that he is very optimistic about the future of Yemeni-Saudi relations, and that conditions will return to normal, and in this context all outstanding problems and issues between the two countries will be surmounted. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Notes 'Constructive Results' of Saudi Contacts

JN1101123895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held its periodic meeting today under brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the prime minister. During the meeting, the cabinet discussed several draft resolutions and topics on its agenda, including a draft plan presented by the brother deputy prime minister and planning and development minister, and the finance minister, on the general framework of the 1995 budget in its investment and current aspects.

Afterward, the cabinet was briefed on the incident in the northeastern region yesterday, Tuesday, 10 January, and the constructive results of the efforts that were made to contain the situation. The cabinet noted the brotherly contacts between brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, and his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The cabinet voiced its appreciation of these constructive efforts and expressed our country's great concern about good-neighborly relations and the maintenance of security and stability between the two fraternal countries. It also noted the need to promote the distinguished relations between them to serve their mutual interests and shared destiny.

The cabinet will continue its meeting tomorrow, Thursday, to debate the draft budget.

Al-Ahmar on Saudi Ties, Current Issues

JN0701143195 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 2-8 Jan 95 pp 28, 29

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, by 'Abd-al-Nabi Yusuf Shahin in Riyadh; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shahin] What are the most important topics you discussed with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during your meeting with him?

[Al-Ahmar] It was a great chance for me to meet with the custodian of the two holy mosques, who expressed his concern for removing all outstanding differences between the two countries and resuming relations and cooperation between them. The relationship between the two peoples is uniquely strong. King Fahd asked me to reassure the Yemeni people about relations with Saudi Arabia. He has also asked me to carry an invitation to brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This visit will be made within the next few days, after President 'Ali Salih's return from Sudan where he will take part in their independence day celebrations.

[Shahin] Don't you think that the achievements you have made in melting the ice between your country and Saudi Arabia has come rather late?

[Al-Ahmar] I have been eager to carry out this role since the end of the Gulf crisis. I have come to Saudi Arabia many times and have met with King Fahd and a number of ranking officials. During all my visits I made efforts to bring the two countries' viewpoints closer and effect a reconciliation. This visit, however, has achieved a great diminishing of tension thanks to the genuine desire I have sensed on the part of my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques to bolster relations and remove all the differences that built up over the past.

[Shahin] How would you evaluate Saudi-Yemeni relations at the present time?

[Al-Ahmar] I think they are witnessing the beginning of a shift from the stage of estrangement to that of cohesion and true cooperation.

[Shahin] Has a date been set for the summit meeting between King Fahd and President Salih?

[Al-Ahmar] An agreement was reached to hold a meeting between the two leaders but its date has not yet been fixed. However, it will be held shortly. When I arrive in Yemen and meet with President Salih, the custodian of the two holy mosques will be contacted to set a date for the visit.

[Shahin] What will be the major issues for discussion in this imminent meeting?

[Al-Ahmar] Many issues will be discussed. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with King Fahd are two major events that will help to remove many of the outstanding differences between the two countries.

[Shahin] Will a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries be held to prepare for the meeting?

[Al-Ahmar] Tradition has it that any meeting between the leaders of two countries should be preceded by a meeting between the foreign ministers.

[Shahin] Did you discuss with the custodian of the two holy mosques the border dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia?

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[Al-Ahmar] During my meeting with King Fahd I was inclined to avoid going into the details of this issue. I have focused on opening channels of dialogue and cooperation. Details will be discussed at a later stage.

[Shahin] Will the joint border committee continue its work?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes, and I believe that it started its work a few days ago. In addition to the joint technical committee formed in the past to discuss the border issue, a new committee was set up to address the recent incidents that took place on the borders between the two countries.

[Shahin] When and where will this committee meet?

[Al-Ahmar] It began its meetings this morning, Tuesday, 27 December, under the patronage of both countries' interior ministers. It will hold its meetings in the border area, that is, in Saudi Arabia and Yemen alternately.

[Shahin] Has a new Yemeni ambassador to Riyadh been named?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Al Kababi Nu'man, who was minister of youth and sports and who recently became a minister of health, was named for that post. He has good qualifications and suitability.

[Shahin] The Yemeni Government is taking measures to cancel the Nationalization Law of 1976. When do you expect the return of private properties to their original owners in the southern part of Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] The nationalization decision was an ugly crime and conflicted with Islam and the law. From the beginning, we asserted that it conflicted with Islamic law and that it should not be ignored. These properties should have been returned to their owners immediately after the declaration of unity in 1990. Now that unity has been entrenched and that the domination of the Yemeni Socialist Party, which nationalized citizens' private properties, has been abolished, these properties should return to their owners. [passage omitted]

[Shahin] Is it true that foreign oil companies have resumed oil exploration in Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes, and because security prevails these companies are working comfortably. Moreover, the recent laws encourage investment activity and capital movement. All companies are allowed to work freely. [passage omitted]

[Shahin] How do you view the current normalization of relations between the Arabs and Israel?

[Al-Ahmar] I believe the steps taken toward that end were rather quick. The main beneficiary of the normalization process is the Zionist enemy and not the Palestinian people. No true peace will prevail unless the Palestinians get their full rights.

[Shahin] But there are Arab countries that have made advanced steps in this field. For example, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited the Sultanate of Oman.

[Al-Ahmar] We do not have the right to speak about what every Arab country believes to be suitable for it. As for us in Yemen, we are very far from the Jewish state, and we have never been a confrontation state or one of the steadfastness and confrontation states, as they used to call themselves. We will be the last Arab country to consider normalizing its relations with Israel.

[Shahin] What about the Yemeni Jews who immigrated to Israel and live there?

[Al-Ahmar] Only a small number of Jews, that is less than 100, remained in Yemen after the emigration that took place in 1948 and 1950. They are considered a small minority, but they enjoy all rights of citizenship. Their number is on a continuous decline because they travel to Europe or the United States as other citizens under the pretext of receiving medical treatment, or to study or visit relatives, then they immigrate from there to Israel.

[Shahin] What is your opinion on the violence that is being practiced by the extremist Islamic groups in a number of Arab countries?

[Al-Ahmar] We in Yemen reject violence and terrorism and do not accept this phenomenon in our country. We reject such activities in Islamic and Arab countries because they are not approved by the Islamic sharia, and because Islam is a religion of tolerance, mercy, and justice. I think that what is taking place is terrorism, whether it is practiced by groups, individuals, or ruling regimes. These activities are rejected and we condemn violence, whatever its name might be. However, we should not be drawn into the concept adopted by the Western countries that anyone who does not follow them is a terrorist and that those who oppose normalization with Israel are terrorists. What the Israeli forces do in Palestine and south Lebanon is the ugliest form of terrorism and violence because they suppress the Palestinian citizens, humiliate them, confiscate their rights, desecrate their shrines, and imprison them in order to set up settlements on their land. Then, they bring a Jew from the United States, Russia, or Europe and make him live in this settlement. What is going on in Bosnia- Herzegovina and Chechnya is also considered one of the ugliest forms of terrorism that is practiced by the authority. Terrorism should be condemned whatever its source might be or wherever it is, and whether it is practiced under the umbrella of Islam or democracy.

[Shahin] What is your comment on the hijacking of the French airplane in Algiers last week?

[Al-Ahmar] This was a terrorist act of piracy that we strongly reject and condemn.

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INA Editor Denies Report on 'Zionist' Contacts

JN1001200295 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The political editor of the Iraqi News Agency said today that since the start of the capitulation process, some Zionist quarters have made implicit statements at times, and explicit statements at others, to the effect that Iraq has held or is holding secret contacts or meetings with Zionist officials, through mediators or without mediators.

The editor added: Claims to this effect were propagated by some media organizations that were promoting the capitulation process and attempting to justify it to lend it some credence for reasons that are known to the Arab masses. The purpose of this was to frustrate the Palestinian strugglers, to drive them into despair, to weaken the resistance movement in usurped Palestine, and to tarnish Iraq's image before the Arab nation's masses. Iraq reacted to these fabrications through the press adviser at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman. They were intended to serve as trial balloons to determine Iraq's reaction and to tarnish Iraq's spotless and genuine pan-Arab record.

The editor went on to say: Yesterday, the Zionist newspaper HA'ARETZ promoted one of these fabrications, saying that Morocco informed Israel that Iraq is seeking contacts with it. The paper added that King Hassan II sent the Israeli authorities an Iraqi letter, expressing Baghdad's desire to recognize Israel, and that the letter carries the signature of a major general assigned the task of holding negotiations with the United Nations by President Saddam Husayn.

HA'ARETZ went on to say that the Iraqi official met in Baghdad with Moroccan Industry Minister Driss Jattou, and informed him of Iraq's desire to recognize the Hebrew state, as HA'ARETZ put it.

Israeli Army radio said the letter reached Israel via the Liaison Office Israel opened in Rabat in November. Israeli Government sources said Baghdad sent similar messages to Jerusalem via other channels. End of quote from the Israeli Army radio.

The political editor of the Iraqi News Agency said: This news shows that the official Israeli authorities have either declined comment on such reports, or asked others to promote such fabrications. This has happened time and again.

The political editor explained Iraq's position in this regard, saying: Let it be clear to HA'ARETZ, the Zionist Army radio, and other quarters that promote such fabrications and trial balloons that Iraq will disappoint their sick dreams and wishful thinking. Iraq has not held, and will not hold, any contact whatsoever with any Zionist, be he an official or not, in the past, at present, or in the future. For Iraq is unlike the weak and faltering parties the Zionist entity has been dealing with, the parties that tell their peoples something and hold contacts with the Zionist entity to tell it something completely different.

The editor added: Let HA'ARETZ and the Zionist Army radio realize that Iraq cherishes light, and that light can never be obscured by darkness. Iraq pursues the same policy in public and private. If the Zionist entity feels disappointment because the Arab nation's masses are unlike their rulers, and because the so- called normalization policy has failed, and if it believes that talk of alleged contacts with Iraq, whose purposes are exposed, could facilitate the capitulation process for the Zionist entity and undermine Iraq's reputation, this entity, along with the dwarves, weaklings, and Quislings are nursing big delusions, because Iraq's record, as known to its nation, is unquestionable. This record is baptized with blood, dear sacrifices, and well-known jihad and struggle stands. As for the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation, they will only reap disappointment and defeat.

Paper Views Iran's Revival of Nuclear Project

JN1101111695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)— AL-THAWRAH asserts that the expansionist policy of the mullah regime in Tehran is not much different from that of the shah. Since they assumed political power in Iran, the mullahs have not abandoned their dream of subjugating the countries of the region.

In an article today, the paper adds: The Tehran mullahs are making tremendous efforts to promote their strategic nuclear weapons programs at the expense of the deteriorating social and economic conditions of the people of Iran.

The paper cites Iran's announcement that it is willing to complete the construction of a nuclear reactor on the Iranian coast at a total cost of $800 million. Work on the project had stopped in 1979. This is a serious approach and a clear extension of the shah's policy of expansion at the expense of the countries of the region.

The paper urges the Tehran regime to reconsider the policy of military aggression and expansion, which failed utterly throughout eight years of war with Iraq. This regime should devote its efforts to development projects and social and economic progress instead of wasting Iran's economic resources through costly strategic and nuclear armament plans, based on their illusion that this could lend them some strength or some aspects of false openness.

The paper draws the attention of the Tehran rulers to the fact that the manifestations of false strength will not spare them a serious confrontation with the overwhelming popular tide that is widening daily as a result of the aggressive, authoritarian policy of the mullahs inside and outside Iran.

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Column Rebukes 'War Criminal' Anthony Lake

JN0901174495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Jan 95 p 3

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "The "Heroes" of the Blind Scorpion Policy: Criminals and Impudent Ones!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anthony Lake, who has a calm face, has stood up and said: We will not remain silent about the inhuman methods Russia is using against the Chechens! Other calm people threatened to cut U.S. aid to Russia if the Russian military attack on Groznyy does not stop! All these people, who have cold facial features, are talking about humaneness, cruelty, and the need to respect peoples and their right to life! By so doing, they are masking their faces with the features of the angels of mercy!

Reaffirming that we do not want to assess Russian conduct in Chechnya and that we only wish to assess general U.S. conduct, we have to remove the facial features of angels from the U.S. faces, so their real features will appear. This Anthony Lake, who is shedding tears over humanity in Russia, is just a war criminal who enjoys the mass killing of people after due consideration and contemplation. He is the national security adviser of U.S. President Bill Clinton. He is also one of two experts who worked out a criminal theory called double containment. This theory means eliminating the sources of life in Iraq by the comprehensive blockade as well as exhausting the sources of strength in Iran by boycott and political isolation.

Lake continues to incite the annihilation of the Iraqi people. He is one of the war criminals responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis as a result of the blockade. A total of one million Iraqis have been victimized, about half of them are innocent children! Which carries more weight by humanitarian standards: Killing hundreds of Chechens during a war of secession or annihilating hundreds of thousands of civilians in Iraq due to systematic starvation and denial of medicine? We certainly regret the killing of anyone, whether in Russia or elsewhere. However, we should not remain silent about the criminal genocide the United States has been committing for four years, or about the hypocrisy and impudence of some U.S. officials who are well aware that they are committing criminal genocide [previous word in English] at a time when they are raising their voices in protest against the killing of a few people who fell at the hands of their opponents here or there!

There is a terrible downfall of humanity, reason, and wisdom in the United States. These values were replaced by one standard; namely, the sick selfishness of the inferior creatures controlling the United States. These creatures continue to pursue killing in a way like that of scorpions, not snakes. This is because a scorpion stings every living body it touches, whereas a snake only bites if it perceives danger.

Europe's past colonialist policy was one of the alert snake, while the current U.S. colonialist policy is one of the blind scorpion. Therefore, mankind is afflicted by mass arbitrary killings of millions of human beings in east Europe, central Asia, Africa, and the Arab homeland because the U.S. scorpion exists in these regions in a bid to fully control them.

There are two types of the crimes of annihilation and mass killing. First, there is the speedy mass killing through military means. Second, there is the slow mass killing through food, medicine, and general civil blockades. The United States is engaged in those two types of mass killing, using the worst and most brutal means. Were not the red Indians—the indigenous inhabitants of America—eliminated without any justification? Was not the United States the first nation to commit the crime of the using the nuclear weapon against Japan, which was about to surrender? Did not the United States eradicate human beings and plants in Vietnam, using conventional and chemical weapons? Did it not launch the worst, most massive, and most dangerous war of annihilation against Iraqi civilians during the 30-state aggression against Iraq, where cities and civilian installations were targeted and attacked by explosives equal to eight Hiroshima-size nuclear bombs? Is not the United States now waging wars of annihilation in all continents?

Those are the most important speedy wars of annihilation. Compared to what is going on in Chechnya, we immediately realize that the United States is the worst executioner of peoples in history.

Is that all? No. The United States is engaged in slow annihilation of millions of people. It is imposing a comprehensive blockade against Iraq, killing millions of people. It is sabotaging the economies of Asia, Africa, and Latin America through the IMF and its destructive terms to spread anarchy and poverty and annihilate millions. It is preventing the south from acquiring high tech and carrying out sound development plans to ensure the mass annihilation of its population through diseases and ignorance. It is contaminating the world environment to make illegal profits. It is supporting the reactionary and bribed regimes throughout the globe, etc.

America's crimes are innumerable. Therefore, we were greatly astonished when we heard a war criminal like Anthony Lake speaking about human rights, although his hands and clothes are blood- stained. Can any haughtiness match that of a sick killer alleging chasteness and humaneness?

British Use of 'Depleted Uranium' Shells Protested

JN1101085395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, has refuted claims by British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind that the Geneva

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Conventions permit the use of shells made of depleted uranium, such as those used against Iraqi armored vehicles during the 30-state aggression.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the Iraqi envoy said the British secretary's argument is false, and that the use of these weapons violates international and humanitarian law. The following is the text of the letter, announced officially at the United Nations today:

Upon instructions from my government and further to our letter dated 4 October 1994, I would like to inform you that on 17 November 1994, British Member of Parliament David Steele addressed a letter to British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, expressing concern over the British forces' use of shells made of depleted uranium against Iraq. The British defense secretary sent a reply message on 3 December 1994, in which he acknowledged the British forces' use of 88 shells made of depleted uranium against Iraqi armored vehicles and the U.S. forces' use of a larger number of shells. He claimed that the Geneva Conventions permit this use. Despite the British secretary's acknowledgment, in his letter, that these shells have a radioactive effect on the health of personnel who are targeted by them, he said that his ministry had studied the Iraqi report on this issue and that there are no previous reports that link the use of depleted uranium with the appearance of the symptoms of the diseases noted in the Iraqi report.

The British secretary's claim that the Geneva Conventions allow the use of [words indistinct] for the following reasons:

1. It is true that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 did not specifically prohibit the use of radioactive weapons. However, they did not allow their use either. In addition, the shells made of depleted uranium were not known in 1949. The First Protocol of 1977 that is annexed to the said Conventions deals with the methods and means of combat. Article 35 of this Protocol spells out the basic rules governing the means of combat as follows:
A. The right of the parties to any armed dispute to choose the methods and means of combat is not unrestricted.
B. The use of weapons, shells, materials, and means of combat that could inflict unwarranted injuries or pain is prohibited.
C. The use of methods or means of combat that could cause severe, widespread, and long-lasting damage to the natural environment is prohibited.

2. The Hague Agreement of 1907 prohibits the use of weapons that randomly hit civilian and military targets. This applies to these shells that emit radiation and poisons and have far-reaching effects on the inhabitants and the environment.

The above facts should be viewed along with the British defense secretary's acknowledgement of the use of these weapons against Iraq. This necessitates that the international community and its institutions investigate these serious violations that are considered war crimes, since they violate international laws and norms [words indistinct] countries.

I will be grateful if you circulate this letter as a Security Council document.

Signed: Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, the permanent representative

Use of Facilities to Allied Aircraft Protested

JN1101112195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (INA)—Iraq has once again informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers continue to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid yesterday, Iraq's permanent representative said the aircraft violated Iraq's airspace between 1-7 January, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and conducting 329 hostile sorties.

Enclosed with the letter was a detailed list of the violations.

Minutes Signed With Jordanian Industrialists

JN0901152095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—The Union of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce [UICC] and the Iraqi Industries Union [IIU] today signed minutes of joint cooperation with the delegation of the Amman Industry Chamber.

The minutes were signed for the Iraqi side by UICC Chairman Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Ghafur Yunus and IIU Chairman 'Adnan al-Qudsi. Signing for the Jordanian side were signed by Khaldun Abu-Hassan, chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry and head of the Jordanian delegation.

In the minutes, the two sides reiterated their desire to develop economic and trade relations and to expand the base of cooperation and economic integration between Jordanian and Iraqi industries. They expressed their desire to set up joint ventures. They called for encouraging companies, industrialists, and traders in the two fraternal countries to develop their commercial and industrial links by fostering coordination between unions and chambers by exchanging delegations and visits by businessmen.

They agreed on the importance of encouraging cooperation in the field of exchanging technical and technological expertise, and on the formation of a joint authority

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that supports industrial cooperation and deals with issues that concern Iraqi and Jordanian industrialists. The two sides agreed on exchanging visits and participating in fairs in the two fraternal countries.

Head and members of the fraternal Jordanian delegation emphasized the need to lift the unjust economic siege imposed on Iraq soon and to end the suffering of the Iraqi people.

They hailed the steadfastness of the Iraqis under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, and the giant achievement represented in reconstructing what was destroyed by the aggressive war in record time, depending on self-capability.

KDP's Barzani Comments on Kurdish Infighting

MM1001170095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jan 95 p 6

[Interview with KDP Chairman Mas'ud Barzani by Zuhay Qusaybati; place and date not given: "Barzani Tells AL-HAYAH: Kurdish Fratricidal Fighting Gravely Harms the International Protection. We Will Not Accept Sole Leadership Except Through Honest Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qusaybati] Despite the numerous agreements concluded between the leaderships of the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] and the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan], fighting has flared up between the two parties. Do you envisage any possibility of a radical settlement of conditions?

[Barzani] A radical redress would be possible if the PUK were to accept the principles of democracy, plurality, and free honest elections and tackled the issue of authority by peaceful means and accepted that the ballot booths rather than the rattle of arms would have the final word.

But if the PUK leaders persist in tackling matters through military force, violence, and military coups, then our KDP will resist it, just as the Kurdish people would resist it by all possible means. We have refused to succumb to dictatorship since the sixties, we have refused to succumb to the dictatorship of any political regime in Iraq and we will not succumb today to the PUK's military dictatorship.

If they insist on following this course, they will not succeed and will also cause extremely grave harm to the cause of the Kurdish people and the cause of democracy and human rights in Iraq.

At the beginning of 1994, we called for the holding of elections on the date fixed for the conclusion of the current parliamentary session which ends in May 1995, or even before then if this could help resolve matters. But the PUK's leaders rejected the holding of elections at the fixed time and proposed instead the holding of formal elections whose results are predetermined similar to the elections that used to be held in East European countries. But our party insisted on the holding of free and honest elections after the holding of a population census. The PUK had no alternative but to agree to this in its latest agreement with us last November, which turned out to be just an agreement on paper. In practice, they resorted to the use of force to change the political balances by coercion and terrorism and the imposition of military dictatorship.

[Qusaybati] The PUK affirms that your party receives $100,000 daily, which is the revenue of Ibrahim Al-Khalil Customs Post on the borders with Turkey, but refuses to hand it over to the Kurdish Government, while your party affirms that the PUK seized the reserve funds of the Central Bank's branch in May, which amounted to $14 million. What caused this problem to be raised following the clashes which took place between the forces of the two parties last May?

[Barzani] The Ibrahim Al-Khalil Customs Post was not a new post. It has been constantly there and no remarks whatsoever had been raised about it. But because it has been under our party's control since the March 1991 uprising, willingly and out of our faith in the law and in the interests of the region's people, we handed it over to the regional government which was formed following the establishment of the parliament. The situation between this customs post and the governmental financial institutions remained completely normal until 1 May, 1994 when the PUK launched a military offensive against our party's bases and branches. The issue of the Ibrahim Al-Khalil Customs Post and other disputed issues were raised then with the PUK which carried its abortive coup at the beginning of last May—and which is trying today to complete it—and seized all funds (revenues) that were at the banks in Al-Sulaymaniyah and Ranya including $1 million belonging to the Ministry of Industry. The PUK seized not only the customs revenue but also the private funds of the citizens in these regions as well as the proceeds of the sale of tobacco and cement at Al-Sulaymaniyah city, and used all this money to run their war machine against our party and against our people's interest, experience, and future and consequently the future of the Iraqi opposition and the Iraqi people.

As to the funds in the Regional Bank of Irbil, which is the Central Bank, and which represented the people's savings, the PUK began to withdraw these funds to use for military purposes instead of using the bank's funds on reconstruction and services. Furthermore, the prime minister, who belonged to the PUK, has transformed the Bank, with all its directors, staff and guards, into an institution belonging to the PUK.

The funds at the Regional Bank stood on 14 April 1994 at $14 million. We asked for a stock-taking of the bank's funds and the principal expenditure fields, but they refused to do so. Yet we went along and concluded two agreements with them with a view to resolving the problem.

The first agreement was concluded on 19 December 1994 when we stressed the need for the handing over of

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all revenue, including those of the Ibrahim Al-Khalil Customs Post, to the government of the region, on condition that it would be spent according to the budget, after its approval—as the budget had remained without approval for two years because of procrastination by the ministerial and parliamentary bloc of the PUK—and according to the resolutions of the parliament and cabinet. But again they refused to implement the agreement and resorted, since two weeks ago, once more to waging their war against us, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the PUK political bureau on 15 December 1994. They persisted in renewing the fight and expanding it until it reached the city of Irbil and its suburbs.

The PUK statements that the current fighting was over the Ibrahim Al-Khalil Customs Post provide ipse facto another tangible proof that they were the first to start the fighting. They are claiming now that they have resolved the situation at the city of Irbil militarily. This also means that they are continuing their military attacks on their part only as we, on our part, have not declared war so far.

I must add, however, that the harm their coup attempt has inflicted upon our people's cause and security cannot be measured by any funds or revenues.

[Qusaybati] The Kurdish Government's Prime Minister Kusrat Rasul Ali had told AL-HAYAT on 3 January that the Kurdish administration cannot continue under the domination of the two parties. Are you in agreement with this view? How can the administration operate away from the influence of the two parties, though it is only a partnership between them?

[Barzani] Iraqi Kurdistan is not the only place were a coalition government had been established between two parties with a close degree of influence. In principle, there is nothing wrong with this, particularly as the cause of our people is now passing through extremely critical regional and international conditions. Prior to the current events, we have tried to expand the base of regional rule by the participation of five other parties in the government on the basis of granting each party one ministerial portfolio. I do not see anything wrong in the division of ministerial portfolios among parties. This is a familiar thing in many countries. But the harm, indeed all the harm, lies in making the division penetrate every department and every institution and extend down to employees in lower grades.

The council of ministers could be a partnership between two or more parties. But to share everything on this basis conflicts with the principle of the people's sovereignty and the rights of citizens and the principle of equal opportunities. Yet, despite all this, we felt that a state of partnership would be better than a state of internal fratricide, which the Kurdistan National Union Party has imposed on us once more: for they have violated sanctities, waged military attacks inside the city of Irbil and embarked on operations of looting in a horrible manner which affected many government departments. They have dismantled the government and suspended the operation of the parliament, with the exception of those parliamentarians who staged a sit-in strike in protest against the fratricide. They have destroyed the government institutions and attacked even the hospitals including the Ruzgari Hospital, which the Prime Minister attacked with the only armored vehicle owned by the PUK secretariat. They have turned the buildings of some university faculties into military barricades from which they opened artillery fire on residential quarters (such as the 92d quarter, for example). They looted the stores, homes, and cars of the citizens particularly those who support our party irrespective of the degree of their political support.

[Qusaybati] Some Kurdish circles consider the duality of Kurdish leadership between Barzani and Talabani was the chronic problem that has been inflaming disputes and turning them into armed conflicts between the two parties. Do you think it possible to have a sole leadership through elections or through any other means? Should Talabani, for example, win, would you be prepared to concede sole leadership to him?

[Barzani] The principles of democracy are based on plurality and the peaceful exercise of authority or on coalition once the desire for this exists among the parties concerned. This is what we in the KDP approve of. If any specific leadership succeeded in winning through free and honest elections, then it should have the right to assume administration of the region. But free and honest elections only take place under peaceful and normal security conditions, away from the rattle of arms, terrorism and the atmosphere of military coups and the imposition of things by force.

As we accept the principles of democracy and plurality, then we will accept their consequences including the victory of any party or anyone. We have repeatedly affirmed this. But we will never accept at all any sole leadership other than through free and honest elections and we will confront dictatorship by full force.

[Qusaybati] Washington has warned your party and the PUK to stop the clashes. Are not you worried that the Kurdish fratricide might affect the Western air protection of the Kurds above the 36th parallel?

[Barzani] Washington has strongly denounced the fighting and advised the two sides to stop it. The fratricide will have a grave and great effect on the entire Kurdish question, the international public opinion sympathy for it, the international protection and the humanitarian aid.

The PUK alone bears the responsibility for this harm and for what might ensue in the future. For it alone was the one who sparked the fighting on 1 May 1994 and continued with it until the end of August 94. The PUK was the one that began the current fratricide since the

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middle of last December. This is not the first time the leadership of the PUK has embarked on such an irresponsible action.

[Qusaybati] What about the probabilities of outside intervention?

[Barzani] If the Kurdish house is tidy, then the probabilities of outside interference would be small. But if this deteriorating state of affairs, which the Kurdistan National Union has imposed on the Kurdish people continues, the door will be open to all negative probabilities including that of outside intervention.

Kurdish Parties Exchange Accusations of Baghdad Links

MM1101091495 in Arabic 9 Jan 95 p2

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Barzani and Talabani Exchange Accusations About Secret Links With Baghdad Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—While the two main Kurdish parties in northern Iraq were trading accusations about secret links with the Baghdad government and about receiving military aid from it, independent Kurdish sources have warned that the city of Irbil, capital of the Iraqi Kurdish region, could once again become the scene of a fierce battle between the militias of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani.

The Kurdish sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the two parties were massing most of their forces in the areas around Irbil. Early last week Talabani's party announced that it was in control of the city after three days of fierce fighting in the city resulting in material losses and civilian casualties in addition to those killed from the two warring militias.

The sources confirmed that, according to information received from the area, large Barzani forces were moving towards Irbil.

Barzani had urged Talabani to withdraw his militias from the city to keep it open to everyone as the capital of the region. It seems that Talabani links the withdrawal of his militias from the city to a comprehensive agreement covering all issues which triggered the recent fighting.

The Kurdish sources fear that "obstinacy" on both sides could lead to a major battle that would reduce that historic city, which is over 3,000 years old, to rubble.

Meanwhile, clashes have continued between the militias of the two sides in the areas from Khalifan northeast of Irbil to Hajj 'Umran near the border with Iran.

Barzani's party claims to be tightening its control of the strategic city. Talabani's sources said their forces in these areas were coming under attack by the other forces. They said that over the past two days there were attacks on the areas of Hajj 'Umran, Darband Rayat, Choman, and Khalifan.

The sources also said that Talabani's forces handed over one of their positions in the area of Shawish near Irbil to the Iraqi National Congress [INC] which is trying to promote a cease-fire and an agreement that would solve the current problems peacefully. They said that the position was handed over as "an expression of a desire to stop the fighting and activate the peace efforts led by the INC."

A Barzani party representative has denied Talabani's party's charges that it received arms, ammunition, and supplies from the Iraqi Government authorities. Hushyar Zibari, the KDP representative in London, accused the PUK of receiving arms and ammunition from Baghdad.

Local press and radio and television stations run by the two parties in the Iraqi Kurdish areas last week began exchanging such accusations. Independent Kurdish sources yesterday told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these accusations were part of the "psychological warfare" between the two sides, but other sources did not rule out the possibility of the Iraqi authorities providing such aid for both parties "even indirectly." They said that the Iraqi official media were delighted with the reports of the fighting between Kurds and were happy to see the Kurds "killing one another."

PUK Accuses Ankara of Colluding in KDP-Iraq Contacts

MM1001162695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr al-Qusaybati: "Talabani Party: Baghdad Arming Barzani, Ankara Colluding"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani has accused Baghdad of arming the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani. It also stressed that Ankara is trying to "implicate the Kurdish people in dealing with (President) Saddam Husayn." And it announced that leading KDP figures visited Baghdad a few days ago.

Sami Shawrash, spokesman for the PUK in London, told AL-HAYAH that "Barzani's party concealed customs revenues from the (Kurdish) government and spread assassinations through its secret services in Irbil" in North Iraq, which witnessed infighting between Talabani's and Barzani's parties. The spokesman added that the KDP "plundered the homes of the al-Haraki tribe (the largest Kurdish tribe in North Iraq) and handed the tribes' children and women to the Iraqi forces in Fa'idah, north of Mosul, crowning this with a devastating attack on Shaqlawah on 23 December, in which Talabani's home and Kurdish government establishments were burned."

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He said that Barzani's party "is insisting on continuing the fighting, because it is implicated in secret coordination with the Iraqi and Turkish Governments. There is work behind the scenes led by the Turks to implicate the Kurdish people in dealing with Saddam, normalizing relations with him, restoring his authority over the border with Turkey, and reactivating trade and economic dealings with him, despite the international resolutions."

He accused Turkey of "encouraging Barzani's party to return to the Iraqi regime, to conceal customs revenues (in North Iraq) from the Kurdish government, and to cause strained conditions and spark off armed conflicts in Iraqi Kurdistan."

He cited "numerous evidence, first and foremost four secret visits to Ankara by Nitsharwan Barzani (No. 2 in the KDP) between.1 November 1994 and 22 December 1994, in addition to secret visits to Salah al-Din by Turkish officials last October."

He added that "Azad Barwari, member of the KDP Political Bureau visited Mosul on the first day of the year, then he accompanied Nitsharwan to Baghdad a few days ago. And a large truck transported ammunition and military material to the party in Dahuk via the Fa'idah post (controlled by Iraqi troops). That was on the nights of 1-2 and 2-3 January."

Shawrash urged the KDP "to end this secret coordination and opt for the peaceful option and internal cooperation with the PUK, the Kurdistan Front, and the Iraqi opposition in order to topple the regime and establish of clear political relations with neighboring states."

KDP Denies Links With Baghdad

MM1101091695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Barzani Party Responds to 'Allegations,' Accuses Talabani of Coordinating With Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani) has vehemently attacked the allegations made by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Jalal Talabani), which accused the party of receiving ammunition and military material from Baghdad. It also accused Ankara of "trying to implicate the Kurdish people in dealings with (President) Saddam Husayn."

Hushar Zibari, KDP spokesman in Europe, stressed in a statement to AL-HAYAH that "it is the PUK which has received ammunition and arms from the Iraqi Defense Ministry and the intelligence service." He pointed out that the PUK's accusations are aimed at "concealing what it is doing secretly with the Baghdad regime."

Zibari said: "Whenever the PUK fails to achieve its aims through the use of military force, violence, and unsuccessful coups, it resorts to accusing foreign regional powers of intervening in favor of the KDP in the internal dispute to justify the failure of its [PUK] schemes and to throw dust in the eyes. We have experienced this devious behavior on many occasions from PUK representatives." [passage omitted]

KDP Envoy: Barzani in Favor of Elections

TA1001165695 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1520 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Diyarbakir (AA)—Hajj Salih Husayn, Iraq's Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] representative in Diyarbakir, declared that Barzani is in favor of elections in northern Iraq and added: "The clashes will end if democratic and peaceful elections are held."

The KDP representative replied to questions by an ANATOLIA correspondent with regard to the clashes between the forces of the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in northern Iraq. Pointing out that the clashes have no goal and that his party finds them meaningless, Husayn remarked:

"Clashes erupt in northern Iraq every three to four months. The civilian population suffers because of these clashes. Just as both sides were feeling completely comfortable, a meaningless clash erupted. Both sides incurred damages. The casualty figures are not as high as reported. Our leader, Barzani, wants democratic elections. The clashes will end if peaceful elections are held. This will create a more tranquil atmosphere, regardless of who comes to power."

Answering a question on reports that Irbil is now in the hands of Talabani's forces, Husayn said:

"There are forces from both sides in Irbil. The area surrounding Irbil is entirely in the hands of the KDP. At this time, Talabani is in Irbil's (Sincak) village, and Barzani is in Salah al-Din. There are no clashes inside Irbil."

Husayn added that Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, who fled the Saddam regime and came to northern Iraq together with several commanders, is mediating between Barzani and Talabani to end the clashes.

Cease-Fire Declared After Talabani, Barzani Approval

NC1001165095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Follow Up Committee made up of Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, chief of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress; Dr. Kamal Fu'ad, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Political Bureau member; and Jawhar Namiq Salim, Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] Political Bureau member has declared an immediate cease-fire and ending of tension in the region of Kurdistan. The committee declared this decision after its approval by brother Jalal

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Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani on the eve of a meeting held by the Follow Up Committee at the Kurdistan parliament hall yesterday.

Iraqi Army Said To Bombard City of Taqtaqah

MM1001171095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Kurdish sources have confirmed that the Iraqi Army has bombarded with artillery the city of Taqtaqah near Karkuk in North Iraq.

The sources said that "the bombardment of the city on Saturday night/Sunday morning [7-8 January] lasted over an hour and caused deaths and casualties among civilians."

The city is situated within Kurdish areas in which the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (led by Jalal Talabani) has a presence. The sources said that UN forces have been informed of the artillery bombardment.

Meanwhile, the Free Iraqi Council has concluded the third congress of its general committee and elected a new 20-member Central Committee. Sa'd Salih Jabr has been elected as chairman of the council. He delivered a speech at the conference held in London last Saturday and Sunday, in which he urged "the national opposition inside the country and in exile to unite their efforts and struggle in order to speed up the overthrow of the regime in Baghdad."

'Imminent' Return of Iraqi Kurdistan Predicted

JN0701132195 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 27 Dec 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Conflict of Agents and the Forthcoming Accountabilities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current bloody clashes in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region between the gangs of agents Mas'ud [Barzani] and Jalal [Talabani] express a number of facts. Some of these facts relate to the position of the two agents and their foreign extensions and connections, and others to local factors; namely, the bloodletting and the state of disarray in the region.

The first of these facts is that what is taking place in the region is not unusual or unexpected. In fact, observers were aware all along that the cinders smoking under the ashes were bound to burst into flame.

But the point we must ponder here is the recent serious turn in the bloody clashes between the agent gangs. These clashes have reached the point of no return, despite all the reassuring statements from the gang leaders to hide their current fragile relationship, which has no common basis other than betrayal of the homeland and siding with the plotting enemy against crucial national issues.

We have said many times that more divides the agents Jalal and Mas'ud than unites them, especially since the warring gangs know that the current situation is temporary, and conflicts with the evolution of time and history and reality itself. The circumstances that led to this unusually anomalous situation are bound to vanish because they are essentially linked to a situation that cannot last forever.

The current clashes express a conflict of the selfish and narrow- minded interests of the traitors, who are isolated by the sons of our Kurdish people, as much as they expresse their fear of the final outcome, which will place all issues on the table and make those who have betrayed their homeland and people account fully for all their actions. This explains the repeated agreements signed by the Talabani and Mas'ud gangs. No sooner are they signed than they collapse quickly to develop into more confrontations, casting their heavy shadow on the citizen who is eagerly awaiting the hour of salvation and the return to the bosom of the homeland and the care of the beloved leader Saddam Husayn, the engineer of the autonomy.

Results are judged by their preludes. We are not too far from the truth when we say that the fact that matters in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region have reached this serious level means the preludes and the results have converged. Will the bitter seeds, which the evil ones have sown, produce anything other than bitter fruits?

Therefore, what has happened, and is happening, simply means that security, stability, and safety can only be achieved through the one homeland, common destiny, and strong efforts to expel the traitors and agents and crush their remnants. A single look of fear in the eyes of a child in Shaqlawah or the weeping of a woman in Salah al- Din or Harir is sufficient to disgrace all the agents and traitors who have chosen to become cheap tools for the United States, Zionism, and their agents.

The enemies who gambled on the "Kurdish card" before lost their wager. Their delusion to undermine the strong unity of Iraqi Arabs and Kurds collapsed. Here is more proof that strongly confirms that the U.S.-Zionist plot has failed to grow roots and that what is left are miserable scattered leaves that cannot face the surge of truth and history.

The hour of the return is imminent.

Paper Appeals to Kurds To 'Return' to Homeland

JN1001114395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has appealed to the honorable sons of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region to return to the homeland, heed the voice of reason, and stop implementing foreign policies.

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The newspaper, speaking for the Kurdistan Democratic Party, says that acting in the spirit of honorable citizenship and belonging to Iraq is sufficient to bring about a successful beginning of a national solution. However, maintaining the status quo, reacting negatively, and seeking foreign shelter will only lead to further fighting and destruction.

The paper adds: Everybody is now certain that the foreigner is not interested in defending the Kurds or in protecting their interests. The foreigner also does not care about the daily oppression of the Kurds because it wants to use the Kurdish card to peddle its policies and achieve its objectives. Evidence of this is that it is watching the ongoing fighting in Kurdistan as if it were an exciting drama.

The paper stresses that having surrendered the sacred soil of the homeland to the foreigner and agreed to allow the foreigner to peddle its schemes through them, the armed leaders have failed to provide the minimum level of safety and reassurance to the Kurdish citizens. In addition, those armed leaders could not control the professional mercenaries that have transformed Kurdistan into a land ruled by the law of the jungle.

The paper expresses sorrow at what is happening in Kurdistan, noting that innocent people are the primary victims. Had the fighting been exclusive to the armed mercenaries alone, things would have been easier. What is happening, however, is that the fighting is taking place in cities, residential quarters, and population centers. Thus, death and destruction have had a heavy toll on citizens rather than on the professional mercenaries, since those can maneuver, hide, run, and defend themselves.

The paper concludes: How much longer will this fighting continue and will this anomalous situation persist? Where will this destruction lead?

Youths Born in 1977 'Invited' To Join Military

JN0901151495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 95

[RCC Decree No. 215 issued on 26 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

The Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 215 dated 23 Rajab, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 26 December, 1994

Decree

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

1. Those born in 1977 are invited to join the military service.

2. The defense minister shall carry out this decree.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Paper Reports Industrial Production Rates Increase

JN0701132295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 Dec 94 p 4

[Article by 'Ali 'Uwayyid]

[FBIS Translated Text] The construction industries sector at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals last month achieved excellent results, exceeding all set plans and achieving monthly averages higher than those for the same period last year.

Making this announcement, an official ministry source said: The State Enterprise for Glass and Ceramic Industries achieved excellent results in most products last month. Production increased as follows: 76 percent in glass sheets, 26 percent in bottles and jars, 405 percent in household effects, 37 percent in sodium silicate, 18 percent in therm stone, and 95 percent in concrete poles.

At the State Enterprise for Cement in the north, production is approaching previous averages. Work has begun on operating the second production line at Badush Cement Factory with a daily capacity of 1,500 tonnes following a period of suspension for maintenance.

Regarding the State Enterprise for Geological Survey and Mining, the ministry source said that progress has been made in the production of salts, which has gone up by 68 percent, kaolin by 505 percent, and glass sand by 11 percent.

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Iranian Contact Bids, 'Secret' U.S. Documents Reported

TA1101082595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF Radio has exclusive information about an Iranian attempt to explore the possibility of contacts with Israel. A senior Iranian personality—a high-ranking Iranian foreign service official—sought to meet with Israeli elements several months ago in a bid to find out why Jerusalem has been acting against the Tehran regime.

The following IDF Radio investigative report uncovers secret U.S. State Department documents containing the names of European and Asian companies and factories, which sell nuclear weapons components to Iran. Our correspondent Ronen Bergman has the unique details of these two affairs:

[Begin recording] [Bergman] Iran made several attempts to contact Israeli elements over the past year. The Iranians tried to forge contacts with Israel mainly through Israeli academics and researchers working abroad, who are believed to pull weight with Jerusalem policymakers.

IDF Radio has learned that one of these individuals is Dr. Amatzya Bar'am, a Haifa University Middle East expert who spent several months in Washington as a guest lecturer. A high-ranking Iranian foreign service official sent an intermediary to Bar'am's residence to arrange a clandestine meeting which was supposed to be held at a Washington hotel. The high-ranking Iranian was to arrive aboard a private plane from New York and represent, according to the intermediary, the Tehran government's stands. Bar'am discussed the matter with relevant Israeli elements and agreed to meet with the Iranian representative, announcing, however, that he would convey messages, but that he could not promise to answer every question presented by his interlocutor. Two days before D-Day, terrorists blew up the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires. The deed was attributed to Iranian agents, and the meeting was called off.

Bar'am has confirmed the details, but refused to name the Iranian official in order to avoid harming the possibility of future contacts.

[Bar'am] As I understood it at the time, the Iranians wanted to know why in the past two or three years, Israel had considerably intensified its attacks on and reservations about Iran, as well as its attempts to isolate Iran and cause it difficulties. As far as I could glean from the intermediary, the Iranians were troubled by all this.

[Bergman] [passage omitted] This week the international community again dealt with the Iranian attempts to procure nuclear weapons. An IDF Radio investigative report has revealed that the Pentagon has had detailed information about these attempts for a long time. A highly confidential wire sent by Former Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger in August 1990—which is hereby publicized for the first time—to a number of U.S. Embassies in the world stated that the Washington administration was extremely concerned about the nuclear plans of Iran and Iraq. With the knowledge of the Pentagon and on the basis of intelligence information, he instructed the U.S. Embassies in Britain, France, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan, and Spain to take action with the host governments to prevent local companies from exporting nuclear bomb components to Iran. The wire named a number of factories in those countries that were selling military products to Iran.

Washington sources have stressed that the United States was determined to impose strict supervision on exports to Iran and to avoid the repetition of previous mistakes with Iraq. The sources further stated that in the past year Iran has been attempting to take over several European companies dealing in the atomic sphere—most notably Skoda Energy, a subsidiary of Skoda, in which Germany's Volkswagen is a majority stockholder and which specializes in the manufacture of nuclear reactors.

The Washington sources expressed great concern about the defection of U.S.-trained Iraqi nuclear experts to the Iranian nuclear endeavor. Within the framework of the good relations between the United States and Iraq prior to the Kuwaiti invasion and the Gulf War, the U.S. Defense Department did not prevent the participation of numerous Iraqi scientists in closed scientific conventions in the United States. The serious blow dealt to the Iraqi industry during the Gulf War, in addition to the close UN supervision, left hundreds of scientists unemployed. The Americans are afraid they will defect to Iran, which offers them freedom of research and generous wages. It has been learned that (Husayn Shaharastani), former head of the Iraqi nuclear project, has already crossed the line and is employed in a senior position in Tehran. [end recording]

Beilin on Iranian Advances, Oman Ties

TA1101105595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dan] Dr. Yosi Beilin, the deputy foreign minister, is on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Dan] Was our report on the Iranian advances to Israel new to you?

[Beilin] There have been numerous attempts by what the diplomatic jargon calls leper countries, which are bound by international sanctions, to reach the United States through Israelis. These are usually informal talks, some aspects of which seem slightly ridiculous. For instance,

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Iraq does not understand why we are sore after it launched missiles at Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Ramat Gan, and Iran does not understand why we are sore after it calls for the annihilation of Israel every other day.

[Dan] You have not voiced any firm reservations about a dialogue with Iraq, if I am not mistaken.

[Beilin] You are mistaken. I have a very extreme stand on this issue.

[Dan] What about Iran? Is Israel open to any kind of dialogue with it?

[Beilin] No, I see no room for any dialogue with either Iran or Iraq. I think the last thing we need is to be these two countries' laundrymen. I was similarly extremely opposed to any ties with Libya or to the Libyans' visiting Israel, and I never hesitated to voice my stand on this issue. As a country, we belong to the international community, and we will not be the leper countries' laundrymen.

[Friedman] Your very determined stand is somewhat surprising in view of your having been one of the architects of the Oslo process. In that period, too, academics—what a coincidence—held talks with what many Israeli circles still regard as the worst of lepers.

[Beilin] I am not talking about Israeli circles, I am talking about the international community, which has endorsed formal resolutions, which has imposed sanctions on a number of countries. These countries seek to break these sanctions by forging ties with us, but they are going to fail. Ties with the PLO were a multiyear Israeli blunder: Instead of conversing with the Palestinian leadership, we sought out village leaders. It was a mistake for which we are still paying, in my opinion.

[Dan] We have heard of a senior Iranian official's attempt to set up a dialogue with Dr. Amatzya Bar'am. For some reason, that meeting was not held. Had it been held, would the Foreign Ministry have taken a very negative view of it? Would it have tried to prevent it?

[Beilin] No. Why should we prevent a meeting between university professors and various people in the world? There is a difference between encounters of this nature and political meetings. I would oppose any political encounter, but I see no reason to oppose one of this nature. It is not illegal or counter to a norm. We do not have to prevent people from holding meetings.

[Friedman] What seems encouraging in this affair is that this country, which is ostensibly motivated by a fanatic, uncompromising ideology, has pragmatic considerations that will perhaps lead it on to more practical tracks that will eventually produce favorable results for everyone concerned.

[Beilin] I sincerely hope so. Even without being acquainted with the involved people in Iraq, Iran, and Libya, I am positive there are pragmatic people in these countries who are not happy with their leaders' mania, who would like to lead normal lives, who understand they cannot live in isolation, who would love to have the sanctions lifted, and who would like to forge ties with Israel. I am very much in favor of encouraging this kind of thing, but definitely not at the expense of changing these countries' international status before they comply with the international demands. As soon as they do, when they are no longer lepers, I will be very much in favor of forging ties with them and of encouraging them.

[Dan] Dr. Beilin, we would like to ask for your reaction to the Omani postponement of the establishment of a representation in Israel. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Dr. Beilin, was not the Israeli announcement of the fact and the date of the opening of an Omani office premature?

[Beilin] First of all, the report is inaccurate, because there has been no decision on a postponement. I think the ties between us and Oman are very close, and basically, there is an understanding that these ties will acquire a slightly more formal character. There has been no decision on postponement, nor has there been a decision on an interests office. The general trend is toward the formalization of the ties in some way or another, but the exact way has not been decided. We maintain permanent, ongoing ties with them, and I hope they will....

[Dan, interrupting] Dr. Beilin, are you not disappointed to a certain extent? The interests offices were scheduled to open very soon, but it is not about to happen in the coming days or months.

[Beilin] I am sorry, but that is inaccurate. We have truly reached no agreement on an interests office. Perhaps our ties will be of a different nature. There are ties of diverse qualities. For instance, there is a difference between the ties we agreed on with Tunisia and those agreed to and implemented with Morocco. To this very moment, I have no idea what kind of ties we will have with Oman. The report is therefore simply inaccurate.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Thank you.

General's Remarks Said Causing Iranian 'Threats'

TA1001131695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Roni Sofer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senior Foreign Ministry officials are angry with Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch, who stated that Israel might be forced to act in a bid to thwart Iran's nuclear efforts. Foreign Ministry elements claim that Dayan's "uncalled-for statements" have created a storm in Tehran and brought about a flood of Iranian threats against Israel.

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The officials said that Israel stands to gain nothing from stating that Iran is a possible target for a military strike. "Dayan's remarks, more than the recent publications regarding the Iranian nuclear issue, have brought about a verbal escalation between the countries," the sources claimed.

In reaction, Dayan said: "In my lecture at Tel Aviv University I indeed said that Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons and that in the long-range this constitutes a serious security threat for Israel. At the same time, the possibility of an Iranian 'shortcut' in the development of these weapons obliges us to closely monitor this and could force Israel to reach a decision on how to provide an answer to the threat over the short term as well. I said that under certain conditions this could be done as early as 1995. Such an answer is complex and includes various options, not necessarily an offensive one. I was not accurately quoted in one of the newspapers." [passage omitted]

Iran's Nuclear Race Said To Herald Demise

TA1001155895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 10 Jan 95 p 3

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "It Is Good for the Jews"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The world is full of good news. You just have to know how to read it. Here are two news reports from yesterday.

The first good news is that Iran has decided to become a nuclear power. Great. Excellent. This is a clear-cut recipe for its demise.

Iran is a weak country, economically backward (GNP per capita is $1,400 compared with $14,000 for Israel), torn apart from within, no vision, no government, no military capability: The people in Tehran are nervous; the elite hate the clerics, who make their life miserable. If Iran's leaders have decided to go for the nuclear option, they are doing so out of weakness and desperation. The nuclear race will only increase their weakness and desperation. The deeper the ayatollah's regime sinks into its sweet and crazy nuclear dream, the further away it will get from three things: strengthening its conventional army, raising the standard of living of the weary Iranian people, and supporting international terror. Very good. From our point of view, this is good news.

Furthermore, the desire for nuclear capability turns Iran, which tried to be reaccepted into the family of civilized nations, into a leper state and the No. 1 enemy of both superpowers. The United States and Russia have a common interest in sharply suppressing Iran's nuclear project. A nuclear Iran will constitute a direct threat to their most vital strategic interests.

Had we learned today that the Iranian Government decided to invest $20-$30 billion in upgrading its army and a similar amount in economic development, we would have had reason to worry. Had we learned that Algeria had fallen to militant Muslims and that it had planned an economic-political-terrorist alliance with Iran, we would have had good reason to be deeply worried.

Those are the real dangers, the wolves howling at the door. But nuclear armament? Really. What will Iran do with one or two nuclear briefcases? For its nuclear threat to be of significance, it has to build up a dual capability: a first crushing strike (dozens of bombs, warheads, bombers, launchers, bunkers, intelligence, an entire strategic lineup), and a no less crushing "second strike" that it will be able to carry out even after the response by the attacked country.

A country incapable of doing that is only wasting its resources.

The following is a short list of the countries that have invested in nuclear weapons, at one stage or another, and what they have achieved from it:

The USSR was disbanded. South Africa gave in to the blacks. North Korea was cut off from all of Asia. Argentina lost the Falklands and abandoned its nuclear capability. Pakistan has one corrupt government after another. Ukraine does not have bread to feed its people.

Iran is now trying to join that list. Let it try. For us, that is good news.

The other good news reported yesterday is that the CIA believes—and is even certain—that a group of conservative generals will soon take over the Russian Government. Great. Excellent. Such an assessment promises victory for the democrats and liberals in Moscow.

Over the past 25 years (a long time), there was not a single mistake in evaluating developments in the USSR first, and then in Russia, that the CIA failed to make. Its experts said one thing would happen, and just the opposite occurred. They decided that communism would grow stronger when it was already dying. They decided that Moscow would not give up Estonia, when nobody in the Kremlin gave a damn any longer about the independence of the Baltic states.

In August 1991, CIA experts estimated that the communist putsch would bring down Gorbachev. Gorbachev won, and it was the anticommunist Yeltsin who deposed him.

Later, the U.S. experts warned that privatization in Russia would soon come to an end, while in fact it has gathered real momentum. They were surprised by the rise of Zhirinovskiy and then by his decline. This time they were completely surprised by the Russian invasion of Chechnya. Of course, they were surprised by the extent of Chechen opposition and the weakness of the Russian Army.

Therefore, when they decided that Russian democracy was coming to an end and that a military dictatorship

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would be set up within days, this was very good news for the future of Russian democracy.

The invasion of Chechnya might serve as Yeltsin's political grave. If not soon, then in another year, within the framework of the campaign for president. But Yeltsin's loss will not be the victory of Russian imperialism, as the CIA experts think. On the contrary, Chechnya put the political lid on those who promised the Russian president a short, certain, and clean war. The influence of the conservatives, the nationalists, the generals has collapsed. Live broadcasts of the fighting Georgia, the photos of burned Russian tanks, and radio talk with mothers traveling to the front to bring their children back home showed the Russian people the real conduct of the dirty war (even if justified politically) with total media freedom and no censorship. Those watching Russian television, which fully and openly covers the Chechnya war on several channels—more than Israeli television covered the war in Lebanon—know that the Russian public hates that adventure, is furious with the way it is being conducted, and feels humiliated and led astray.

The CIA believes this is how military dictatorships develop. If that is what they think, it is almost certain that the opposite will happen.

By the way: Even the assessment about Iran's nuclear capability comes from that same CIA, the one that managed to forecast the events in the Middle East just as it succeeded in forecasting them in the communist East—with zero success. We need only know how to read the news in order to see the bright side.

Army Intelligence Views Syria, Nuclear Threat

TA0801104295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli analysts believe that the peace process with Syria will continue in the current year. According to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch [IB] analysis, which is in the final stages of being formalized and will soon be presented to the cabinet, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is adhering to his position that a peace contract with Israel should be attained, but progress in the process might be slow.

The IB analysis also says that the IDF is monitoring the possibility that Iran might have a nuclear bomb by the year 2000 with great concern. According to the analysis, unless the Iranian nuclear plan encounters unexpected difficulties, Iran will be able to produce a nuclear bomb in eight to 10 years. This plan could be implemented unless Iran encounters domestic or budgetary problems that hinder it. The report says that the Iranian regime has a great potential for instability as a result of a combination of severe economic problems and a corrupt religious regime.

According to information gathered by the IB, Iran is cooperating with several countries: It receives technological aid from North Korea, after having been assisted by Chinese technology in the past. Iran is currently attempting to obtain information and equipment in Europe and the Far East. To meet its goal, Iran is not trying to obtain aid from countries, but contacts companies that violate the embargo. Some companies that provide Iran with know-how for money act contrary to the declared positions of the governments of the countries on whose territory they operate.

Referring to the NEW YORK TIMES report that Iran will have a nuclear bomb within five years, the analysts say that this would only be possible if someone were to give Iran "a ready-made bomb off the shelf." Although they say that this option cannot be ruled out, the analysts state that, presently, Israel does not have any information regarding elements willing to provide Iran with an active bomb or with knowledge that would cut short development processes. The analysts refer to the NEW YORK TIMES estimate as being "an extreme analysis, and we do not know what it is based on." According to the IB analysts, their opinion is shared by U.S. Government experts.

According to the analysis, the Iranian regime is presumably stable, although their domestic problems are difficult. The Iranians are not all religious, and some of Iran's residents do not support pitting Islam against the West.

According to the IB analysts, Pakistan and India already have a nuclear capability, but Libya, Algeria, Egypt, and Syria do not, and Iraq does not have this ability at this stage. Iraq was the closest to developing a nuclear bomb, but this process has been halted. According to IDF estimates, Egypt made a strategic decision several years ago not to develop nuclear weapons, which is why it does not deal with this.

The IB analysis states that Iran and Iraq must be attentively followed. "We must constantly keep an eye on these two countries and their production processes. In the short run, Iraq might develop a nuclear bomb if the embargo, supervision, and control imposed on it are lifted. In the long run, Iran might become a problem."

Rabin: U.S. Should Station Troops on Golan

TA1001201695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin addressed himself tonight to the possibility of stationing U.S. soldiers on the Golan. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that the prime minister told a conference of U.S. rabbis belonging to the Israel Bonds that approximately 1,000 U.S. soldiers have been part of the multinational force in the Sinai for 16 years and asked: Why, then, can a similar number of U.S. soldiers not be positioned on the Golan Heights for a good cause, if and when a peace agreement is signed with Syria?

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Golan Taken Off Official Visitors Agenda; Beilin Comments

TA1001173795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by 'Arad Nir and Ya'el Dan; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Nir] The Foreign Ministry has decided to remove visits to the Golan Heights from the official program for foreign visitors. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that as part of their official tour, foreign guests visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Massada, and, until now, the Golan Heights as well. The Foreign Ministry has made it clear, however, that people wanting to visit the Golan Heights will be able to do so in coordination with the Foreign Ministry. The initial reaction from the right wing is that the decision underlines the intention to give up the Golan Heights. We have Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin on the phone. Mr. Beilin, what have you actually decided?

[Beilin] It is a guideline that says no visit to any site in Israel should be imposed on any guest. The decision is general and does not refer specifically to the Golan Heights or any location. There is no reason why we, as a government, should demand that foreigners invited by the Foreign Ministry visit any specific site. Each person can choose the places he wants to see. If somebody wants to visit Haifa, he may. If somebody wants to visit the Golan Heights, he may do that, too.

[Nir] Does that mean that from now on, each visitor will determine his own itinerary?

[Beilin] I think that the time has come for bolshevism to end. We have given up such undemocratic orders in many areas. I think it is very important that our visitors feel free to visit where they want.

[Dan] Is that the only reason, or is it that there is some uncertainty about the site, and you do not want to embarrass your guests?

[Beilin] First, our visitors are not embarrassed by the fact that we are in the midst of negotiations which, to my regret, are not fast enough and not sufficiently intensive. There is no connection between those negotiations and visits by foreign guests. Therefore, any visitor who so desires may go there. We, however, should not tell a guest that if he comes to Israel, he must visit the Golan Heights.

[Nir] But is this not an unnecessary decision, considering the timing?

[Beilin] I believe that it is the right decision and that we should not obligate anybody to do anything. It is the sensitivity regarding the matter that is unnecessary, although it is typical of these times in which each report, even if it has nothing to do with the political issue, is put into that context.

[Nir] If someone will want to visit a place that the Foreign Ministry might not want them to visit, what will you tell them?

[Beilin] Such as?

[Nir] East Jerusalem, for instance.

[Beilin] East Jerusalem is part of the sovereign State of Israel. Just as he may visit anywhere else, he may visit East Jerusalem.

[Dan] Nevertheless, there is an official visitors program. If you remove the Golan Heights from the program, one gets the impression that there is something behind it.

[Beilin] The intention is to end an imposed travel program and permit the guest to travel wherever he likes. If a guest comes and asks what is interesting in Israel, the ambassador or the person in contact with him may make a series of suggestions. There is no reason why he should not suggest a visit to the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 10 January adds that "in reaction, the Golan settlement leaders said that this decision again proves that the government has already given up the Golan Heights. Knesset Member Avigdor Qahalani of Labor said that even if party discipline is imposed, he will submit the draft resolution that would make a supermajority necessary in order to amend the Golan Law. He told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that if Labor pursues this path, there is no doubt that it will lead to the evacuation of the Golan within three years."]

Media Reaction to Perry Visit Reported

TA1001122995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Israeli electronic and written media on 8, 9, and 10 January include extensive reportage on U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to Israel. On 9 January, most major Hebrew-language dailies provide extensive second-or third-page coverage of Perry's 8 January arrival and meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, noting that the meeting focused on the issues of terrorism, the threat of nonconventional weapons in the region, troop deployment on the Golan Heights, and bilateral issues. On 10 January, all major Israeli papers provide very extensive coverage of Perry's northern Israel tour and meetings with Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres, with most dailies providing front-page coverage focusing on the leaders' discussion of the Iranian nuclear threat.

Jerusalem's Israel Television Channel 1 and Channel 2 Television Networks in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 January both carry reports on Perry's joint news conference with Rabin, focusing on the leaders' statements on

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the Iranian threat. Channel 1 notes that "U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry tonight avoided talking with the parents of the Israeli MIA's—the Fink and Feldman families—who were waiting for him when he left Tel Aviv's Hilton Hotel." Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 10 January adds: "During the event at the Hilton Hotel, visiting Defense Secretary Perry passed by and the relatives tried to meet with him; however, they were prevented from doing so by his bodyguards." Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 January includes a page-9 editorial entitled "Advancing the Peace Process," which says that Perry's visit falls within the context of U.S. efforts to facilitate the talks on the Israeli-Syrian track and to monitor the Iranian nonconventional threat.

'Acceleration' Expected in Jordan Trade Relations

TA0701195595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Acceleration is expected in Israeli-Jordanian trade relations after Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf permitted Jordanian businessmen to trade with Israel. Instructions to this effect were handed over in the course of the visit by an Israeli economic delegation to Jordan. Dani Gillerman, the head of the Chambers of Commerce Union who led the delegation, told our correspondent Hayim Plattner that a regional, joint Israeli-Jordanian chamber of commerce will be set up shortly. Several deals were struck in the course of the visit. Among other things, some of the processes involved in manufacturing textile products that Jordan will export to Europe will be carried out in Israel. Israelis will also set up agricultural farms in Jordan.

Complaint Issued Over Bus Incident

TA1101062895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel has issued a strong complaint to the district coordinating office in Gaza over the incident at the Netzarim junction yesterday in which a group of plainclothes Palestinian security officials tried to force their way onto an Israeli bus. Among the group of Palestinians was Muhammad Dahlan, the head of the Palestinian security service in the Strip. [passage omitted]

Ben-Eli'ezer Reaffirms No New Construction

TA0801165595 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Amnon Levi in the studio on 8 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A bitter argument on Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria was waged in today's cabinet meeting by the Meretz ministers on the one hand and Ministers Tzur and Shetrit on the other. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer promised to bring a detailed report on the volume of Jewish settlement to the next cabinet meeting. We spoke with Minister Ben-Eli'ezer a few minutes ago:

[Levi] Good evening, Mr. Minister.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] A very good evening to all.

[Levi] You pledged to bring a detailed report on the scope of Jewish settlement in the territories to the cabinet. Do you have any idea of the volume of our investment in the territories as of today?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I have information on my ministry's operations. My ministry's investment will stand at 100 million [currency not specified] at the most next year, I think, which will also include infrastructure and everything else for Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and other sites, such as Betar, about which there has never been any argument.

As for the rest: Since I do not work in secret, I announced today that I will report in full detail on every single settlement at the next cabinet meeting—how much is being invested; what is being done; what projects have been undertaken, if any. None of this entails any new building, however. There is no new construction, with the exception of the Ma'ale Adumim area. Yet I demanded something else....

[Levi, interrupting] That was the Likud government's approach: Nothing new was being built, simply old settlements were being fleshed out, and as they talked of fleshing out, they went on to build all around the place.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No, no, Amnon, no. If that were true, how would you explain my being stuck with 3,000 vacant housing units ready to be sold?

[Levi] How do you?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] It happened because houses were built in the territories, but not by me. I am not building, except for that Efrata incident, which is an ongoing story of nearly 10 years. I did support carrying on construction there, because it only involved the fleshing out of an existing place, and because the council heads involved are of the most moderate in the territories. [passage omitted]

[Levi] I would like to ask you: What is happening with your government?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think the government's performance is superb.

[Levi] That is a scoop.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] It certainly is. We keep hearing the opposite, because someone wants the public to hear the

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opposite. I think in the past two years, this government achieved what many other governments were unable to do in every sphere: construction, infrastructures, economic growth, reducing unemployment, the education sphere, which received 5 billion shekels. Moreover, the government works in harmony. Yet some of us are making an effort to paint us differently in the public eye.

[Levi] Are we back to Shim'on Sheves again?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The issue is too serious for us to stoop to name dropping; leave it be.

[Levi] Police Minister Moshe Shahal suggested ministerial reshuffling. Are you certain you are not on the list of the potential reshufflees?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Let me tell you one thing: We ought to stay away from personal issues, and I do not want to answer that.

[Levi] The prime minister said he may do some tidying up this week.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] You never heard the prime minister say such a thing. The prime minister has never uttered that himself, and I think the prime minister does not and did not intend that. This is part of the so-called malfunctioning: Some people are attributing to the prime minister remarks he has never made. [passage omitted]

Work Said Under Way Near Elqana Settlement

TA1001123195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Infrastructure work is being carried out since this morning on a hill near the Samaria settlement of Elqana. The work is aimed at preparing land reserves for the building of a new neighborhood at some future date. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Elqana Mayor Nisan Slomiansky said the hill is within the settlement's municipal boundary; however, he does not intend to establish a new neighborhood at the site in the near future.

Elqana Council: Work Almost Complete

TA1001175095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ground-breaking work on the hill near Elqana has stopped after nightfall. The head of the Elqana council told our correspondent Gil Litman that land demarcation work on the hill has almost been completed. He said that the settlers will continue to demarcate land reserves in many settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Border policemen prevented dozens of villagers from al-Zawiyah from approaching the hill this afternoon and detained three of them.

Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser, says the Israeli Government should put an immediate halt to the work near Elqana. He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians will not tolerate what he defined as provocations by the settlers aimed at robbing land and destroying the peace process.

Work at Elqana Ordered Stopped

TA1001202695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration submitted an order to the head of the Elqana council this evening, telling him to stop the work on the hill southwest of Elqana. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the order stipulates that the heavy equipment used on the hill today must be removed. The council head told our correspondent that the work has been completed; therefore, the order is meaningless.

Arabs Protest Land 'Confiscation' on West Bank Hill

TA1101115295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a new controversial hill in Samaria: Dozens of the residents of Kafr al-Dik in western Samaria are marching to a hill near the 'Aley Zahav settlement to protest the confiscation of land for a new neighborhood. The protesters contend that the land belongs to them, but Jewish settlers told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the plot is legally purchased state land.

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Cabinet Holds First Session, Outlines Policies

JN1001090195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet held its first session today under Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. During the session, there was emphasis on following the letter of designation. The cabinet also voiced eagerness to promote the climate of freedom and democracy. The cabinet decided to set up a committee to draft the government's policy statement that will be presented to the House of Representatives. More details in the following report:

At the outset of the session, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said he and his cabinet members are proud of His Majesty King Husayn's precious trust by assigning them responsibility at this stage in the history of beloved Jordan.

The prime minister said the government will draw on the comprehensive guidelines set forth in his majesty's letter of designation. The government's objective will be to implement his majesty's directives by continuing to build the state of institutions and law and achieve comprehensive reform on scientific foundations and in accordance with clear plans and programs. The purpose of this is to enhance the homeland's march, serve its sons in all fields, and come up with solutions to the problems that the citizens suffer, especially unemployment and poverty.

The prime minister further stressed the need for teamwork, saying that efforts will be made to achieve the highest degrees of justice, integrity, and equality among citizens. He also expressed the government's eagerness to consolidate the climate of freedom and democracy within the framework of full commitment to the Constitution, the principles of the National Charter, and the rule of law.

The prime minister also emphasized the government's eagerness to cooperate with the legislative branch in the interest of the public good and to enhance democracy. In addition, the prime minister called for strengthening ties with the public to promote the wellbeing of the country through serious work, awareness, and efforts to complete the picture of new Jordan. He called for invigorating state institutions, removing bureaucratic obstacles, and taking care of promising, competent people to promote the nation's comprehensive reform plan and reconstruction drive toward a future that is characterized by prosperity, progress, tolerance, and affection.

The cabinet decided to set up a committee to draft the government's policy statement, which will be presented to the House of Representatives within the constitutional deadline, in light of his majesty's directives in his letter of designation. The letter of designation defined the scope of action in the new stage as part of a comprehensive vision and laid foundations for change in the interest of beloved Jordan and its progress and prosperity. The cabinet also decided to form its specialized councils and committees.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Hails New Government

JN1001133695 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jan 95 p 1

[Editorial: "We Welcome the Government and Begin a New Stage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir assumes executive powers, so begins a new stage, a stage that complements and builds on the previous stage. We are today perhaps somewhat optimistic about this renewal—optimism which should be justified through action to implement the king's letter of designation and unleash the energies to translate it. This is in response to the national interest and the call by our leader King Husayn, who continues to be concerned that all the sons of the homeland direct all their potentials and initiatives toward building, maintaining, and defending this homeland.

The new government has promised only what is possible and achievable and to exert all its efforts to reach broader horizons in terms of a decent life which the kinsfolk can realize through their willpower and freedom.

Through its response to the king's letter of designation, the new government is aware of the magnitude of the issues it is facing and of the homeland's inherent circumstances, and of the duty required from each one of us.

Our citizen gives his love, loyalty, and allegiance to the leader of the homeland and considers him the pioneer who believes in his kinsfolk. Therefore, he must be aware of the available possibilities, the importance of patience, courage, and alertness, and of turning to honorable and productive work. The letter of designation identified the problems of unemployment and poverty and called on the government to deal with them. However, this cannot be done overnight or simply through a decision. This can be achieved through collective national effort, true and sound determination, as well as through the homeland's people rallying around their government and backing of King Husayn's leadership. This is so that the leader can achieve our aspired goals, which will ensure prestige for Jordan and keep our Jordanian citizen in an effective and influential position that maintains his rights, dignity, participation, and confident aspirations for the future.

We are optimistic and confident of our abilities and resources as one family that rejects sensationalism and shoulders the responsibility it learned from King Husayn's leadership. This leadership has become a model for establishing a modern homeland in which we and future generations will live—a homeland that will remain a model of which we are proud.

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Bin-Shakir Confers With Qatari Official

JN1001182995 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has received Qatari Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud and the accompanying delegation. The talks focused on need to develop the brotherly bilateral relations in various fields. The Qatari official voiced hope that inter-Arab relations improve and be able to achieve the nation's aspirations and encounter its challenges.

Mr. Al Mahmud said that Arab interest requires reconciliation among Arab countries as the area is entering a new era of peace with Israel. He added that his country had supported the peace process in the Middle East with the aim of establishing a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

Support Committee Collects Medical Aid for Chechnya

JN0701085395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 95, p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—The Jordanian Committee for the Support of the Caucasian Chechen Republic (JCSCP) has collected between 55-60 cubic metres of medical supplies to send to the embattled Republic of Chechnya, prominent members of the committee said at a lecture on Thursday [5 January] evening.

The lecture, held at Nadi Aljil near the Seventh Circle, was arranged by the women's sub-committee of the JCSCP and attended by around 200 people mostly women ranging upwards in age from about 13- years-old.

The speakers, who included former Minister of Public Works and President of the JCSCP Sa'id Bino, Deputy of the Lower House and JCSCP spokesperson Tujan Faysal and head of the inter-national Department at the Royal Scientific Society Ghali 'Awdah, spoke about the general background of Chechnya, the mentality of its people versus that of Russians. [passage omitted]

Mr. Bino told the JORDAN TIMES that the purpose of the committee and Thursday's lecture were to explain and make known the current situation and its implications to the Chechen and Circassian community in Jordan.

The size of the community lies between 50,000 and 80,000 and is regarded as one of the largest outside the Caucasus region. (passage omitted]

"We have also collected cash and donations in-kind, but we are calling for more. So far we have amassed 55-60 cubic metres of drugs and medical supplies," Mr. Bino added. [passage omitted]

Saudi National Seeks Review of Death Sentence

JN0801090195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A Saudi Arabian national sentenced to death in absentia in a subversion case in Jordan and now in U.S. detention in an unrelated charge is seeking to present his version of the case to the judicial authorities in the Kingdom, lawyers said Saturday [7 January].

Muhammad Jamal Khalifah was among 11 people who were given the death penalty after a four-month trial at the State Security Court last month.

Mr. Khalifah—said to be the son-in-law of Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Saudi millionaire of Yemeni origin and allegedly the bankroller of extremist groups in several Arab countries—and two others, an Omani and Jordanian, were handed down the sentence in absentia.

The case involved a group of people nicknamed "Arab Afghans," a reference to some of its members' background as volunteers who fought against the Soviet army in the 1980-90 war in Afghanistan.

The group was accused of plotting and carrying out bomb attacks in public places and planning to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators with Israel. Seven of the 25 people originally charged were acquitted; 11 were given the death sentence and seven others were jailed for terms ranging between 7 ½ years to life imprisonment.

Samih al-Husayni, a Jordanian lawyer, said he was contacted by a U.S. lawyer, acting on behalf of Mr. Khalifah who was arrested in San Francisco about a month ago on charges of violating American immigration laws.

Mr. al-Husayni said he told the lawyer that Mr. Khalifah's case could not be taken up in Jordan as long as he was not present in the Kingdom.

"Under Jordanian law, anyone convicted in absentia needs to be present in Jordan for his or her case to be reviewed," said Mr. al-Husayni. "Once the convict surrenders or is arrested by Jordanian authorities, then the verdict against him or her is automatically annulled and a retrial is ordered."

As such, Mr. al-Husayni said he advised his American counterpart that Mr. Khalifah, who is travelling on a Saudi passport, present himself in Jordan and face the charges against him in a retrial.

Reports in the Arabic-language press in Europe said Mr. Khalifah, who lived in the Philippines and ran a Muslim religious centre there for several years, was under investigation by American law- enforcement agencies for possible links with "terrorist organisations."

The formal charge against him in San Francisco, however, is of making a false statement in his visa application form that there were no criminal charges pending against him anywhere in the world. The statement was made when he was under indictment in Jordan in the "Arab Afghan" case, according to the report.

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In the "Arab Afghans" case, it was reported that 'Abdullah Hashayka, said to be the mastermind behind the group, had visited the Philippines and met with Mr. Khalifah who extended him help to set up clandestine operations against the state in Jordan. It was not known whether Mr. Khalifah had ever been in Jordan.

Mr. Khalifah is reported to have flown to the U.S. after the Philippine government launched an investigation into the religious centre he was running and other Muslim organisations suspected of financing Mulsim dissidents waging a guerrilla was against the state.

Heads of several Muslim organisations were arrested, including at least two who hold Jordanian passports, reports from Manila said. Some of the arrested were released, but the precise status of the two Jordanian passport holders was not immediately known.

'Abdallah Khalifah, a brother of Muhammad's, is reportedly visiting Jordan to pursue the effort to have his brother face the charges in the Kingdom. He could not be reached for comment.

Sources said Jordan had not filed a request to Washington for Mr. Khalifah's extradition to the Kingdom. They said two Jordanian judges who negotiated a draft extradition treaty with the U.S. did not discuss any case in particular with their American counterparts.

But, the sources said it was possible that Jordan might seek to bring Mr. Khalifah to justice in the Kingdom after the extradition treaty is formalised. The formalisation of the treaty is expected soon.

Convict Reportedly Agrees To Surrender

JN1101104995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Lawyer Samih al-Husayni has said that he received a telephone call at noon yesterday from 'Abdallah Khalifah, a Saudi national and brother of convict Muhammad Jamal Khalifah who was sentenced to death for his involvement in the "Jordanian Afghans" case. Muhammad Khalifah was sentenced in absentia and was arrested in the United States.

Al-Husayni added that Khalifah agreed to surrender to the Jordanian authorities in order to stand trial before Jordanian courts out of his belief in the fairness of the Jordanian judicial system and based on the legal consultations, clarifications, and guarantees explained to him by lawyer al-Husayni.

Lawyer al-Husayni also said that 'Abdallah Khalifah will leave Jeddah for San Francisco to escort his brother after a San Francisco court approves the request submitted by 'Abdallah Khalifah. A faxed copy of the court ruling will be sent to the al-Husayni's office as soon as it is issued.

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U.S. Charge Reportedly Avoiding Public Affairs

NC100106329[5 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 2 Jan 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Sfayr explosion [on 21 December], which revealed a Zionist plan against Lebanon, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ron Schlicher did not attend a dinner in Juniyah to which he had been invited.

Schlicher and other Americans say they have received instructions not to move about in Lebanon unless it is absolutely necessary.

Paper: U.S. Envoy Punished for Supporting Christians

NC1001112395 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 30 Dec 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports indicate that the summoning [to Washington] of U.S. Ambassador Hambley was due to a firm political decision to punish him. There is no truth to reports that he is suffering from an incurable disease or is dying. Hambley was summoned to the U.S. State Department and given a secondary post not commensurate with his ambassadorial rank.

It is understood that the U.S. Administration wanted to punish Hambley because his conduct and actions in Lebanon did not accurately reflect the U.S. Christian opposition. He expressed great sympathy with the stances of the opposition and its leaders.

Birri: Israel More Aggressive During Perry Visit

NC1001123695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has stated that Lebanon is still suffering from two ailments—Israel on the border and sectarianism at home. He said sectarianism is a serious ailment that has always given foreigners an excuse to intervene in Lebanon.

Addressing members of the consular corps today, Speaker Birri said: We must gradually achieve drastic solutions even if this takes a long time. He explained that resistance is a Lebanese bargaining chip. He added: If UN Security Council Resolution 425 is not implemented we will continue resistance.

Speaker Birri indicated that Israel has escalated its aggression against south Lebanon to let U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry hear the sound of guns and to say that Resolution 425 cannot be implemented without security guarantees.

Speaker Birri said Lebanon needs Syria politically and economically, at Israel wants to cancel Lebanon as a competitor in the region.

Israelis Take Over Frontline Positions From SLA

NC1101073495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the south, land and air military operations have extended beyond the occupied border strip. Israeli aircraft launched three raids against the Mlita hill in Iqlim al-Tuffah, Jba', and Jabal Safi last night. Only property damage was caused.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: Israel has struck a blow against Hizballah because it is responsible for 90 percent of the anti-Israeli operations in south Lebanon while the Palestinian factions are responsible for the remainder.

In a precautionary measure following recent attacks on them, Israeli forces took over several important frontline positions from Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA]. The Israelis established two new artillery emplacements on the Marj 'Uyun plain.

An Israeli military spokesman revealed that the Israeli army has approved a targeted the Wadi Shaqra area in Bint Jubayl.

IDF, SLA, UNIFIL Issue New Orders in South

TA1101111595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel Air Force planes again raided terrorist targets north of the south Lebanese security zone last night. All our planes returned safely to base. With the exception of that event, relative quiet prevailed in the region following the heavy terrorist bombardment that lasted all day yesterday. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from the north:

[Horowitz] [passage omitted] The security zone is all set for possible Hizballah retaliation. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops are constantly redeploying in the area.

In the wake of the attack on Norwegian UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] soldiers in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday, the UN headquarters in south Lebanon has also issued new instructions to its contingents.

General Antoine Lahd, the SLA commander, ordered his troops in Jazzin to foil at any cost any Hizballah attempt to take over the Christian enclave controlled villages prevent free Hizballah passage from al-Biqa' bases via the Jazzin enclave to West Lebanon.

Minister on Proposed Transfer of PLO Fighters

NC0601183095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference today, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel al-Murr discussed the issue of transferring some Palestinian fighters to the self-rule areas to boost the Palestinian police force there. He explained that Lebanon will deal with this issue in coordination with the Palestinians. He denied any knowledge of a French proposal to assist in the transfer or that a list of the names of those who will be transferred exists.

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[Begin al-Murr recording] I have not heard of any French proposal or a French role in this affair. I mean that I personally have not heard about anything like this. I do not know if the foreign minister is in possession of any facts apart from those that I have. No list has been submitted to us, saying: We want to transfer the Palestinians on this list from Lebanon. All they said was that they were considering taking 2,000 Palestinian fighters from the camps. When the Lebanese security departments consulted me on this, I said: The Lebanese people certainly welcome the prospect of reducing the number of gunmen in the camps. I am speaking on behalf of the Lebanese public, not the government. When this issue is proposed, there will be no opposition to it. On the contrary, it will be welcomed by the government. However, the first proposal was not repeated. About what happened yesterday, that is whether there were French communications about this affair, I do not know. I have not heard of any proposed list of 470 people or anything like that. We are still waiting to see if they want to transfer 2,000, 3,000, or 5,000 fighters. We still have not heard how they plan to transfer them and whether they will take their weapons with them. If they say that they wish to leave the weapons here, we will say no. If they wish we will supply them with weapons, but they must take their weapons away with them. [end recording]

Asked about the reported refusal of some Palestinian officials to allow the Palestinian fighters to leave the country, al-Murr said that no one is stronger that if the Lebanese Government makes a decision on this affair, it will be implemented.

Hizballah Leader Assails Transfer of PLO Fighters

NC0801110795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim today criticized the transfer of Palestinian fighters to Gaza and Jericho to back up the Palestinian police and confront and repress the intifadah. He said that nothing could save Yasir 'Arafat and the collapsing regimes.

Hizballah: Resistance Not To End After Peace Treaty

NC0701205195 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 23 Dec 94 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Hizballah media source has described as inaccurate, untrue, and distorted a report disseminated by the French News Agency citing an interview conducted by the German weekly DIE ZEIT with Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah. The report, also carried by some local news media, says that his eminence "stressed that the age of armed resistance against the Zionist enemy will stop once a peace treaty between Syria and Israel is signed."

The source said it was not the first time his eminence was asked this question, and he always stressed, and continues to stress, what specific shape resistance against the Zionist enemy will take after the signing of peace.

Envoy: Beirut Not To Sign NPT Before Israel

LD0801221795 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Unity met brother Mustafa Mustafa, ambassador of Lebanon to the Great Jamahiriyah [name and title as received].

The fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and the means to develop them were discussed during the meeting.

During this meeting, the Lebanese ambassador stressed that Lebanon would not sign the nuclear weapons Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] if the Israeli enemy did not sign it first. [passage omitted]

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Al-Shar' Returns From Saudi Arabia

JN1001160595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today returned to Damascus after delivering a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. He also met Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this morning.

He was seen off by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Syrian Ambassador in Riyadh 'Umar al-Sayyid, the embassy staff, and senior Saudi Foreign Ministry staff.

Economy, Finance Ministers Meet Kuwaiti Official

JN1001194195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, Kuwaiti second deputy prime minister and finance minister, has met with Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Meets Kuwaiti Delegation

JN1001200995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received the Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings of the Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Committee, at 2000 today. The Kuwaiti delegation was led by Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and finance minister of the State of Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, and the assistant to the planning minister.

Al-Rawdan conveyed greetings of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, to Mahmud al-Zu'bi who asked him to convey his wishes to Shaykh Sa'd.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the activities of the Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Committee and relations of cooperation between the two sisterly countries and ways of developing them in various fields.

Radio Stresses 'Total Israeli Withdrawal'

JN0801164495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Listeners: It is clear that the process of casting doubts on Syria's position has become part of an Israeli policy aimed at striking at the peace process, undermining its bases, and avoiding its requirements and factors. This fact is obvious in Israeli officials' statements, positions, views, and delusions. In addition to repeatedly refusing to withdraw from the Golan and respond to peace requirements, these Israeli officials allege that Syria does not seek peace and that it refuses to negotiate before regaining the whole Golan. The facts not only refute these allegations, but point to the Israeli officials. Developments in the peace process have exposed Israel's allegations and proven that Israel is placing obstacles, maneuvering, deceiving, and playing tricks in broad daylight because it does not want peace. Instead, it wants to keep the occupied Arab territories and to put the peace process into a dark tunnel.

How can Israel accuse Syria of refusing to negotiate, while talks have been under way since the Madrid conference—over three years ago—which was followed by the Washington talks and U.S. political efforts to achieve progress on the Syrian track? In other words, while Syria has stuck to the negotiations, and its demands for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Golan in accordance with the peace process, and while it insists on achieving that withdrawal in order to reach the desired peace, Israel believes that this trend contradicts its own proposals, projects, and deals and threatens its peace-for-peace principle. By asserting that peace is its strategic option and should be based only on the principle of the retrieval of land and on true and serious implementation of the resolutions of the world legitimacy, Syria is exposing Israel and its responsibility for hampering these talks.

As its approval of the U.S. initiative and its participation in the Madrid conference opened the way to true, just, and comprehensive peace, Syria is fully aware that Israel, which was forced to accept the peace process, is trying to undermine this process by resorting to certain allegations, proposals, and delusions in order to disavow its responsibility for creating obstacles and mines on the path of the peace process. However, facts have exposed Israel's position, which has been rejected and condemned.

By adhering to its full rights, Syria constitutes a real guarantee for a peace that cannot be shaken by events and developments if it is based on a balanced, equitable, just, and comprehensive foundation, as well as on the requirements and factors of the goal, the foremost of which is a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. The whole world has witnessed Syria's credible position and its sound policy, which is aimed at achieving the desired peace. Syria will not abandon the goal of the negotiations, namely, regaining all the occupied territories and the usurped rights. Syria will not accept less than this in order to achieve peace, regardless of Israel's allegations and delusions against Syria's position and its principles on the peace process.

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Israeli Refusal To Sign Nuclear Accord Criticized

JN0901163395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: It is now clear to all observers and to those following the Middle East crisis that the peace process is passing through a phase of stalemate despite all the efforts being exerted, particularly by the U.S. cosponsor, to promote this process.

It is also clear that Israel's positions, policies, and measures are responsible for the stumbling peace process and for the failure to achieve its set objective; namely, a just and comprehensive peace that will return rights to their owners, preserve the dignity of all, and end the state of war and tension this region has experienced for half a century.

As the world is aware, Israel wants a peace that will achieve its objectives and ambitions and open Arab borders to Israel's political, economic, and cultural influence. Israel, however, does not want to pay the price of peace. At a time when the Israelis are proposing impossible demands to Arab parties, particularly Syria and Lebanon—demands that harm Syrian and Lebanese sovereignty and that are considered interference in the internal affairs of both countries—Israel grants itself the right to encroach on all bases of international law and the norms agreed to by all peoples.

For example, Israel seeks security arrangements in any peace agreement with Syria. It, however, does not believe such arrangements should be balanced and equitable, knowing that Syrian and Arab security has been endangered for 50 years and continues to be endangered. What is paradoxical here is the fact that Israel, which is armed to the teeth with all kinds of sophisticated and modern world weapons, believes the Arabs should disarm themselves, so it will enjoy security and reassurance. Israel believes Arabs should relinquish their territories, or parts of them, because its security requires it.

How can there be conformity between Israel's war policy and large armaments, including nuclear arms, and talk about peace, knowing that the Israelis are trying to delude the world into believing that peace is the objective they seek? Moreover, why should the Arabs disarm themselves, reduce their forces, open their borders, and establish close relations with Israel at a time when Israel is being transformed into a nuclear military arsenal and is refusing to sign the nuclear nonproliferation agreement?

Israel views any peaceful nuclear program in any country, even if it is thousands of kilometers away from Israel, as a threat that should be removed, even by force. On the contrary, Israel does not view its own nuclear military program as a threat to the neighboring Arab states. These states have been subjected to aggression since Israel was established in the region.

Given these facts, any observer cannot ignore the threats this Israeli policy poses not only to the peace process but also to regional security and stability. Perhaps, what encouraged Israel to continue this policy was the fact that the international community and its influential powers adopted a double standards policy. What even made things worse and more complicated was the fact that some Arabs hastily opened their borders to Israel even prior to the establishment of peace and also under both Israel's arrogance and its military superiority over all Arabs.

This matter requires a unified Arab and international position, in order for the current peace opportunity not to be lost, and for the region not to remain threatened by an explosion that can endanger the international security and peace.

Paper on Need for 'Balanced' Security Guarantees

JN0901075495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 9 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN emphasizes that just and real peace is the ideal guarantee for security and stability, and says Syria has presented constructive, objective, and balanced proposals at the Washington talks to establish just and real peace in the region.

The newspaper says these proposals were confronted by Israel's obstinacy and its rejection of the most important requirement of the peace process; namely, full withdraw from the Golan in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The newspaper adds: Within the framework of a serious effort to end the stalemate, Syria has proposed equitable and balanced security arrangements on both sides of the border after Israel's full withdrawal. Once again, Israel aborted the chances of advancing the peace process on the Syrian track, and demanded a host of security measures that blatantly violate the principle of balance and equitability, and infringe upon Syria's sovereignty on its land.

TISHRIN adds: It is natural that such demands have only one objective, which is to obstruct the peace process and prolong the Israeli occupation of the Golan. Israel does not want just and honorable peace, but wants a separate deal similar to the Oslo deal that maintains the occupation and settlements. The newspaper says: Syria considers such a deal unthinkable both now and in the future.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The peace for which Syria and the international community aspire is the peace of right, justice, and legitimacy—a just and honorable peace that can ensure solid stability for the countries of the region. Such peace requires Israel's full withdrawal.

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Syria does not oppose security arrangements, on condition that they are equitable and balanced on both sides of the border area. Undermining the entire peace process by rejecting full withdrawal and exaggerating security conditions will never realize the aspired progress.

Press on Rabin's Remarks, European Role in Peace

JN1101093795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-THAWRAH comments on Israeli intransigence toward the Middle East peace process. At the center of this intransigence is Israel's refusal to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy. The paper cites examples of this Israeli position, the latest being a statement made yesterday by the Israeli prime minister to the effect that he had never supported, nor would he support, withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Instead, he said he would object to full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank. He also reiterated his government's intention to maintain occupied Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, as he put it.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the separate, unequal Oslo and Wadi al- 'Arabah agreements have relinquished the Arabs' just right to regain their land in full and all of their rights. This has encouraged Israel to remain intransigent.

The paper concludes: The world is now fully convinced that a just and comprehensive peace is Syria's strategic option. Therefore, any efforts to advance the peace process must take into consideration that such peace cannot be reached before ending Israeli intransigence and forcing it to withdraw fully from the occupied Arab territories and returning to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is because full peace requires full withdrawal.

AL-BA'TH devotes its editorial to the peace process and the European role, asserting that those who observe Europe's role see that statements on the peace process are now clear and explicit, unlike the case in the past.

The paper says there are some observations on this role, including the fact that it has remained ineffectual and confined to fact-finding visits by European officials. The chief observation in this regard has to do with Israel's efforts to circumvent any European role and not allow any European state to engage wholeheartedly in the peace process.

AL-BA'TH notes that the French Government—along with the European Union—has asserted the need to achieve a just peace. It has also stressed its support for the demands of international legitimacy. Rabin, however, reaffirmed his rejection of withdrawal to the 4 June lines, having just launched threats about constant readiness for war.

The paper concludes: Israel does not want Europe to play any role in the peace process. Obviously, the European role has special significance for several reasons, primarily that the EC is the party that has a chief interest in the stability of the region, in view of the geographic location and mutual interests. Thus, the EC, which emerged as a regional power that has an international stand, can attempt to assume its role through methods which it knows very well. This role should not be confined to words.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Accepts UN Plan on Multi-Party Government

LD1101111995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghanistan's president has announced his acceptance of the UN peace plan on formation of a multi-party government. According to Radio Kabul, in his speech, Borhanoddin Rabbani has emphasized that an interim government should take charge of the entire country.

The Afghan government's officials were insisting, up to yesterday, on continuation of the presidential term of Borhanoddin Rabbani for another year.

Government, Opposition Talks Start in Kabul

LD1001195795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that a result of mediation efforts by the peace delegation of Islamic countries, talks between the three jehadi formations of Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan], Ettehad-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Union of Afghanistan], and Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], started today in Charasiab [Golboddin Hekmatyar's base to the west of Kabul].

Esteemed Hekmatyar, amir of Hezb-e Eslami, from the Hezb-e Eslami; esteemed Sayid Nurollah Emad, minister of agriculture [title as heard], and esteemed Mohammed Sediq Chakari, acting minister of border affairs, from Jam'iyat-e Eslami; and esteemed Mosa Khan from the Ettehad-e Eslami, took part in this meeting.

The talks which were held in a friendly and good atmosphere, continued from 1300 to 1600 hours.

The result of the talks were assessed as positive by both sides. Both sides emphasized continuation of talks for finding a solution by political means to the issues and problems. As the Islamic State of Afghanistan's policy is based on understanding and the restoration of peace by talks, therefore the state supports every peace effort inside or outside the country. The state does not regard peace efforts made by a delegation of the Islamic countries as contrary to the endeavors made by Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, the special envoy of the United Nations.

President Rabbani Addresses State Officials

LD1001212895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jan 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani to a gathering of senior state officials on 9 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and peace be upon the chosen ones. [preceding passage in Arabic]

Very dear brothers, I am pleased that I meet you in critical and historic circumstances for our beloved country, in circumstances when all of us with everything in our power should serve the people, ensure security, peace, and stability in our beloved country. We should serve our oppressed nation with all our property anywhere we are and in any trench, and be in the service of the lofty goals of our great Islamic revolution. We should assess with scrupulous vision, with our Islamic vision, all issues that occur in our country, the world, and in the region, and should make programs and stride carefully for our country's present situation and future.

We should ask ourselves: Where are we? At which historic juncture do we rest? What are our achievements? What are our problems? What is our attitude to the solution of issues and problems? What tasks have we accomplished? Was the direction we took correct, or should we reassess it? We should feel responsible for every step we take before God, history, the future generations of Afghanistan, our oppressed people, our Islamic ummah who expected much from our people, our revolution, and our change. [passage omitted]

We should understand that socioeconomic, political, revolutionary, material, and moral change cannot happen in a society so long as the mentality and deeds of the people are not involved in them directly. After all that has happened, now we should create a new direction and stimulation in ourselves. [passage indistinct]

Once again, I repeat that if we want to establish an Islamic society after the fall of communism, our deeds as individuals and groups and as social and political organizations should be Islamic. We should change ourselves and calculate with ourselves before others do this for us and before we are brought before the judgement of God. [passage omitted]

We have got to have a sense of responsibility before the people. [passage indistinct] If we want to introduce economic change in the country, at least we shall have the people who will make economic plans. When we want to create a morally sound society, every person should personally adhere to moral principles and present himself as a model to society so that the people follow his example. Similarly, when we have a political organization, it should not be only in name, but it should be mature from every point of view. A group of uncultured and ignorant people cannot get across the message of culture, knowledge, and science to a society. [passage omitted]

We have been of the opinion that the state should stand by the agreements and treaties that it has concluded, and should act upon them. The responsibilities of those who have responsibilities in the state or somewhere else do not end with the specific office that we hold. We are not

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going to leave our society after holding an office for some days. We are not going to cut off the goals of our revolution and we will not hide in a cave. We continue to stay in the trenches: a back trench, a frontline trench, an organizational trench, an administrative trench, the trench of service to the people, the trench of social changes, and the trench of serving the Islamic ummah. [passage indistinct] Koran strongly scorn those who remain neutral about illicit act. [passage indistinct] A sincere Muslim, a committed and faithful person cannot remain neutral about the events of a society, about changes, and about problems. [passage indistinct]

We said we were ready to transfer power to the president of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan to take up responsibility of [words indistinct] as a caretaker. But when we decided to do something about it—this point was very clear to us, that the other side was not going to accept it. Anyway, there were UN efforts [words indistinct]. We waited to see what the United Nations or the other side was going to do and to see what their program is in this respect. [Words indistinct] We said that the other side, which started the fight, made pretexts. None of their pretexts in the past were true. They in practice showed that the things they said were not serious and honest. They made the militia a pretext and the Ministry of Defense as if controlled by an individual. [Words indistinct] now those matters do not exist.

The state is ready for the transfer of power in an interim stage. After this stage, a representative assembly, whatever name is going to be given to it, i.e., solution and settlement council, loya jerga, or grand Islamic council, should be convened. We should no longer allow our country to be run by a two-month, six-month, or one-year government [word indistinct] and live in a situation of no security, no program, because no government can implement any political or socioeconomic program in a year, in six months, in one and a half years. [Words indistinct] there must an assembly that will supervise the acts and [word indistinct] of the government. [passage indistinct]

A number of people should be brought from the provinces. We should have representatives of the people from the north, south, and from various parts, and from the bases of Dostam's forces; and a limited number of scholars and academicians from inside the country and abroad should join them [words indistinct] and the power will be transferred to them for six months. [Words indistinct] we accepted this. We said that we fully welcome this. Albeit some names were mentioned too.

They [as heard] left to receive a response from the other side. So far, no new response has been received. Some other delegations are also involved in this process, delegations from Afghanistan itself and from the Islamic countries. Meetings go on with both sides. The other side has also tendered some name as members of the cabinet. [Words indistinct] There were proposals from the conciliation delegation which were arranged and communicated to them. It remains to be seen what the other side's response will be. Anyway, for the moment, the issues have not been established. Talks with both sides continue. Whatever situation that emerges in connection with the transitional thing, it will not be a new point for us. So far as the senior officials and employees of the state are concerned, these brothers [passage indistinct].

The one who will be appointed will not be, as the United Nations agrees, president of the state. [Words indistinct] It will have a series of responsibilities, such as the opening of roads, the convening of the loya jerga or the solution and settlement council or any name to be given to it. Albeit the state, in connection with the withdrawal of the armed forces—we are of the same opinion too, but it shall be implemented in all cities, ports, roads, and towns. The rules that are to be implemented in Kabul have got to be implemented in other places too.

It will not allowed that anti-state and anti-people elements remain in some cities and ports, or that factories or state institutions remain under the control of some individuals or groups. But Afghanistan as a whole, all cities of Afghanistan, all Afghan ports, all roads, all state institutions, the public utility, production, and service centers will all come under the supervision of the interim state delegation. And in line with a prearranged program, an elections commission shall be formed at the very time that the interim state delegation is to be announced, so that a situation does not come about that will lead to [word indistinct] and the clashes shall be resumed. [Words indistinct] What I would like to emphasize to the brothers is that you brothers, who have had very major responsibilities of the revolution, will continue to have responsibilities. During the transitional period too, you should think that you are not far from the scene and the trench, and will not be. After the interim period, at every stage, the situation will not be such as to bring about a state of limbo in your political life.

You should think that you will permanently be involved in the sociopolitical changes during all periods—the present period, interim period, and later period. The matter that is to be emphasized is that we should prepare ourselves for the future period and be more practically and actively involved. Henceforth a state employee should not be only an official of interference [as heard]. State employee shall take part in all social affairs, participate in everything. I profoundly appreciate the work of many brothers. And I mention the work of the security commission with gratitude. The value of the work of these brothers was that they disregarded their positions as ministers, deputy ministers, generals or ordinary people. They faced danger in all places, and very positive results have been gained from their work by the people of Kabul. We pray for their well-being and appreciate their work. The work that is in the interests of the people will definitely be registered in history and will be a part of their pride in their lives. All should work with this mentality. A minister shall not think that because he is minister, his hands should not get dirty. We should engage in any kind of work and in anything that the

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people do. We should carry stones, dig the earth. It is not a matter of shame. [Words indistinct] We should practically take part in everything so that the people realize that we are the people to serve, and work for our people. [passage omitted]

Iran

Concern of Nuclear Threat Seen as 'Cover' for Israel

LD0901185695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 9 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Concurrent with the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to the occupied Palestine, the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE [AFP], on Sunday 8 January, quoting official sources in Tel Aviv, reported the Tel Aviv-Washington renewed concern over what the Western propaganda terms as Iran's nuclear capability.

In its report on the matter, the AFP stipulated that during a recent meeting between the Zionist regime prime minister and the American Defense Secretary William Perry, the two sides' talks mainly centered on Iran's nuclear potentials and, during his discussion with his guest, Rabin stressed that Iran was considered as twofold threat for the international community.

In justifying his concern, the Zionist prime minister referred to two points, saying, on the one hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to acquire nuclear weapons and on the other hand is considered as a supporter of international terrorism.

According to the informed political observers, the Zionist regime Prime Minister Rabin's recent remark and emphasis on similar and convergent stances of Washington-Tel Aviv axes in creating a climate against the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in connection with the production of nuclear weapons and attributing terrorism to Iran, are not considered as something new.

The significant point that has attracted the attention of the informed observers at the present juncture is the fact that at present Israel is facing a situation, espcially due to its nonobservance of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. These observers say that the Israeli regime under the U.S. unconditional support is currently carrying out its nuclear program in contradiction against the rules related to the 1970 convention barring the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The treaty is nearing its validity of 25 years and this is at a time when many signatories of the treaty, including the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain Arab countries, are calling for closer monitoring of the Israeli nuclear program in the region by the international organizations. In their opinion, the extension of the treaty depends on seeking assurance that the Zionist regime will fully abide by it. And anyway it should be said that from the points of view of political analysts, the purpose of Rabin's contrary to fact remarks and the Tel Aviv-Washington lies, at the present juncture, is nothing but to provide a cover for Israel's wrongdoing in the region. And this is a trend which is no longer effective, given the Zionist officials' bad record in the eyes of world opinion in spreading false news such as the scandal of Buenos Aires explosion and attributing it to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IAEA Statement Said To Show Israel 'Aggressive Nature'

NC1101073995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 11 Jan 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has restated that Iran's nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes. This statement by the IAEA following recent threats by the Zionist regime to bomb Iran's nuclear installations further reveals the aggressive nature of this usurping regime and of its international mentors.

Political analysts believe that our country's adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its agreement to allow IAEA inspectors to periodically inspect our nuclear installations have neutralized much of the anti-Iranian propaganda war by the West and by the Zionist regime, which accuse Iran of striving to acquire nuclear arms, and have deflected this propaganda weapon. The Zionist regime's bid to equate its illegal attempts to manufacture destructive nuclear weapons with peaceful efforts by some Islamic countries has been neutralized by our country's effort to prove its goodwill in the nuclear field. And truths have been very clearly revealed.

These political analysts believe that the Zionist regime's behavior in this field largely stems from its aggressive nature. Israel stands accused of having most of its nuclear activity in the military field and of possessing perhaps over 300 nuclear bombs. In the past this usurping regime would justify its nuclear activities by claiming an immediate threat existed. But now that the Arab countries are moving toward compromise and talks with this usurping regime, it can find no justification to continue its destructive activities. Some time ago the Egyptian Government, which is the forerunner in the compromise with the Zionist regime, asked the usurping regime to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and destroy its nuclear weapons.

These pressures have made the Zionist regime find new pretexts, such as the nuclear activities of some Islamic countries, in its futile efforts to continue its own destructive activities. But our country's deterrent efforts in

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neutralizing this weapon have revealed the truth and exposed the aggressive inclination of the Zionist regime.

Nateq-Nuri on Israeli Threats, U.S. Opposition

LD1101091595 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The United States is against any sort of technological progress or development in the Islamic Republic of Iran and resorts to all sorts of pretexts to hinder Iran's progress because of its hostile attitude towards the country, said Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Nuri, talking to IRAN NEWS in an interview, gave an example indicating U.S. tumult over our advances in atomic science. U.S. calls on other countries to cut off economic relations with Iran, he said adding it also "confiscated Iranian assets, refuses spare parts for airplanes purchased from that country and carries this exclusion over to other commodities that have a multipurpose usage." The U.S. believes that Iran should not advance and progress and become a power in the region, he argued.

Nuri pointed to U.S. opposition to scientific development and progress in Iran and said that this is the clearest indicator.

Commenting on recent statements made by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry while in Israel, regarding the prevention of the export of nuclear technology to Iran and completion of the Bushehr reactor, [Nateq-Nuri] said: "Time and again the U.S. and Israel have accused Iran of using atomic energy for military purposes and for expansion".

"It is interesting to note that this assertion is raised by a superpower which dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, considered the worst ever atrocity against mankind," he underlined.

Referring to the financial, military and political support of the Zionist regime by the United States, Nateq-Nuri said "Both the supporter and the supported are criminals". He said that Israel possesses dangerous nuclear bombs and weapons of mass destruction. Its official statements against Iran are aimed at poisoning world opinion against us and covering up its own crimes in the region.

Responding to Israel's threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Majlis speaker said: "Should Israel commit such a blunder, we will teach her a lesson not to ever attempt another aggression against Iran. He, then doubted that Israel [would] take such a risk, because Israel is aware of Iran's military ability to defend its borders. Moreover, by doing so Israel will be exposed to world opinion and it will confirm its criminal and aggressive nature."

Nateq-Nuri, who is also the member of the high council of defense [supreme defense council] added that Iran has repeatedly objected strongly to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and has asked these to be removed and destroyed.

It is silly that several countries be assumed to lead the world, protect some friendly countries which have nuclear weapons and oppose those which act against their wishes, he said. However, Iran is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency and in the course of repeated inspections, the agency's experts have confirmed that Iran is using atomic energy for peaceful ends.

He concluded by saying that under an agreement with Russia, Moscow has accepted to complete the semi finished Bushehr reactor which was supposed to have been completed by Siemens of Germany before the revolution. However, after the revolution and under U.S. pressure, the German group left the work incomplete.

Editorial Views Relations With United States

NC0801113695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Jan 95 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohmmad Kazem Anbarluyi: "The VOA's Talks With Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every once in a while, American officials start unilateral talks with Islamic Iran through the radio. The American state radio usually assumes this role. During such talks, America changes its diplomatic tone and adopts relatively nonhostile stances citing an expert or, according to the Americans, a university researcher!

On 30 and 31 December the American state radio asked whether America should consider Iran an outlaw or it should review its stance, and conducted a discussion with American officials on this topic. The motive behind this discussion was to propound stances that are actually the other side of the coin of America's hostile approach toward Iran.

This stance maintains the following:

—That many of the threats that are attributed to Iran are exaggerated.

—That Iranian pride and the universality of Islam are the reasons why Iran assumes the responsibility for many of the incidents in the world of Islam.

—That the American Administration's policies on Iran have not been very effective and that they have even been more detrimental than expected.

—That there are people and leaders on both sides who believe that talks between the two countries are not possible. For example, RESALAT believes that Iran does not need talks with America and that it will not benefit from them.

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—That RESALAT believes that after the establishment of relations between Iran and America, the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world of Islam will be harmed.

—That many people in America say that the establishment of relations with Iran will not benefit the United States unless the regime in Iran changes.

—That in both countries there are people who reject these views and believe that both countries have common interests and that they should be discussed.

—That there are some people in Iran who believe that their country can achieve its objectives better through talks with America.

These stances also refer to the interests and objectives of the two sides, and say:

—That independent experts and observers have been found in both countries who believe that Iran and America have not been fair to each other.

—That the two countries' common interests are the following:

A. Persian Gulf security. Both countries want to safeguard Persian Gulf security, and with a peaceful policy both Iran and America can guarantee Persian Gulf security and tranquility.

B. Iran and America have common interests, as far as what will happen to Saddam Husayn is concerned. Iran is as concerned as America about the situation of the Kurds and the Shiites in southern Iraq and does not want them to be oppressed.

C. Iran and America have common interests in Central Asia, northwest Asia, and the Caucasus. Russia is interfering in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Chechnya, and so on!

D. The fratricide in Afghanistan is as regrettable for America as it is for Iran.

Someone who is unaware of the extent of the White House officials' hostility toward the Islamic revolution may be surprised at so much affection for Iran!

Words and sentences are structured in such a way as though neither side has any other wish but to set aside swords and shields and to embrace each other, and as though on both sides wise men have come together and calculated on their counting boards and realized that fighting will only harm both sides.

But we should not doubt the words that "the American administration's policies on Iran have not been effective." Probably this reality has urged them to set aside some of their obstinacy and pride and to walk alongside us for a while.

At any rate, there are some points in this round of talks that are noteworthy:

1. It has been said that there are persons in both countries who believe that "common objectives can be achieved through talks." But who are these persons? If the Americans know them, then they should introduce them so that the people will also know who they are. If they are only referring to a few opinions that were expressed some time ago in private and in public, Iran does not consider those who made these comments to be "persons." Anyway, those who made these comments are not insisting on the views that they once stated.

As far as America is concerned, of course there are those who are unable to speak up because of the suppression of American foreign diplomacy and Zionist domination. Every so often some comments are made only to test "public opinion" in Iran. Even though the existence of such views in America's foreign diplomacy shows that a degree of logic that has been able to prevent the "stupidity" by some American leaders until now does exist, from the point of view of our people such things are still tainted with a degree of hostility toward our nation.

2. These talks sound as though the Americans are geographically our next door neighbors in the east, the south, the west, and the north!

One of our basic arguments has always been that America has a specific border that extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans and from Canada in the north to Mexico in the south and that the Americans should try to remember this. But they apparently always forget this during the talks!

What business do you have with Persian Gulf security? Basically speaking, Persian Gulf security is being threatened by the great amount of weapons that have been left over from you in this area. Who has threatened the region's security? Who is to blame for the current situation in the region? What is the reason for all these military expeditions to this area from the other side of the oceans?

3. It is alleged that Iran and America have common interests as far as the issue of what is to happen to Saddam is concerned. Did these common interests also exist during the eight years of sacred defense? Where were these common interests at that time? How is it that they have suddenly emerged? It is said that America is as worried as Iran over the fate of the Kurds and the Shiites in southern Iraq. Is this true? Your comments remind one of your 50 years of friendship during the shah's regime! If you were so concerned about the Kurds and the Shiites you would not have armed Iraq and imposed eight years of an unequal war on Iran! Now, too, by insisting on economic sanctions on Iraq, you are annihilating an oppressed nation through hunger!

You have nothing to do with Saddam. You are getting your revenge from the Iraqi people!

4. We do not want to comment on common Iranian-American interests in Afghanistan and in Central Asia because this is a hillarious allegation that only makes the readers laugh.

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The philosophy behind the talks has been formed on the basis that America has interests in this and in other parts of the world and that to safeguard these interests a diplomatic dialogue should be held on all levels of U.S. needs. But this is the philosophy that is to be blamed for the unrest in the world in general and in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East in particular.

It is a well-known fact that the one-sided flow of "capital" from the Third World countries to the West and especially to America is only for the sake of safeguarding American and Western interests. The reason why poor countries are becoming poorer and rich countries richer each day is because of the existence of the unjust equation of so-called north and south. Therefore, America and the West should set aside their argument that they have interests in one part of the world or another.

This extent of bullying has set the world on fire. And if the day comes when the Third World countries will stand up against American bullying and acquire a presence, through any possible means, in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and claim to have interests in the West and in America, it is not clear which parts of the world will be engulfed in fire.

Is the extent of one's strength measured by the "right" one country has to blackmail people in each and every corner of the world?

It is by entertaining such "fancies" in America's foreign policy that the rights of all human beings in the world are being threatened, and it is because of this that we see human rights being violated in all the parts where America claims to have common interests.

Have the American people asked themselves why America shares in everything anyone has in any part of the world? But the way common interests are defined in American foreign diplomacy does not allow them to ask this question and to find a logical answer! If one day the Americans find a correct interpretation for common interests, then they can count on normalizing their relations in the world. Otherwise, relations will continue as they are.

Islamic Iran believes in its clear human and divine principles and will never give in to such oppressive relations. We do not want to partake in the plundering of the world with the help of the world plunderer on the pretext of regional security.

The philosophy behind the Islamic revolution was not to recognize such a right for America. The flag of Islamic Iran will always be hoisted against the banner of the pirates and world plunderers and will call on all the justice-seekers of the world to rally around legitimate governments. And by rallying around this divine flag, the heroic people of Iran will tighten their ranks against the oppressors and will proceed until their final victory under a wise and sagacious leadership.

Majles Views Banking Abuses, Selling State Assets

LD1001141295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's open session of the Islamic Majles continued the debate on the articles of the bill about generating income for the state and spending it on specific purposes. Four more articles of the bill were approved. Please pay attention to our correspondent's report:

The Islamic Majles deputies voted in favor of the bill making it incumbent on all ministries, the state departments, the armed forces, the judicial authority organs, and the companies which are totally owned by the state, to place the rial value of some of their assets at the disposal of educational and health establishments.

In accordance with the approved articles of this bill, all the ministries and the above-mentioned departments and companies are dutybound to allocate 25 percent, 10 percent, another 10 percent, and five percent of the saleable value of their machinery, spare parts, office equipment, and unused and obsolete vehicles, to the Education and Training Ministry, the Organization for Technical Training, the universities and higher education institutes, the Ministry of Hygiene, Treatment and Medical Training, and the State Welfare Organization respectively. The bill further adds that the said ministries and departments are also dutybound to repair, service and to number their machinery to be re-used or sold.

According to another article of this bill, the state departments and ministries are allowed to sell their old and unusable buildings. The revenue can then be used for building new premises to house their offices.

The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics is also dutybound to obtain permission from the esteemed commander-in-chief of the armed forces to sell by auction its barracks' sites and superstructure and the premises that it legally owns.

On the basis of another article of this bill, the Education Ministry is permitted to spend its revenue from cultural, sports, arts, and productive activities to repair, improve and to maintain the education camps, training centers, sports stadiums, and fields and to promote sports and cultural activities. This ministry is also permitted to sell its old schools and unused buildings in cities and villages. The revenue will be used for building, equipping, and purchasing new educational premises.

According to our correspondent's report, in today's session of the Majles, Mr. Mohammad Khan, minister of economic affairs and finance, replied to questions raised by two deputies on a number of abuses in a branch of a bank. Since the deputies who raised the issue were not satisfied, the issue was passed to the commission in charge of articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution.

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Majles Probes $28-Million State Bank Swindle

NC1101104395 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 10 (AFP)—Parliament launched an investigation Tuesday [9 January] into the highest ever embezzlement in an Iranian state bank involving about 28 billion dollars, parliamentary sources said.

The former director of a branch of Saderat Bank, nationalized after the 1979 Islamic revolution, and several of its employees are accused of pocketing 65 billion rials (about 28 million dollars) by manipulating accounts in early 1993.

Iranian Economic and Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad Khan was summoned to parliament to provide an explanation of the fraud only exposed several months after it took place.

He said the suspects, whose number and identities were not revealed, had been arrested and their property seized. They have been accused of issuing 541 "fictitious checks" over several months.

The bank's former manager had first managed to escape abroad, but was returned to the country "with the help of the intelligence ministry," Mohammad Khan said, without elaborating.

He said the authorities had persuaded him to pay back 42 billion rials (around 18 million dollars) of the money he had embezzled when he returned.

But the former director had once again managed to escape from Iran, Mohammad Khan said, adding that the fraud had taken place when former finance minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh was in office. Nurbakhsh is now the governor of the Central Bank.

The parliament has set up a committee to investigate the case which will report its findings later.

The Islamic revolution rooted out corruption in Iran in the early years, but it has become more widely spread again especially since the end of the Iran-Iraq 1980-1988 war.

Tehran, Baku To Cooperate in Caspian Sea Oil Well

LD0701220695 Tehran IRNA in English 2144 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Jan. 8, IRNA—Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic in a joint venture are to start drilling operations at Iran's first oil well in the Caspian Sea waters later this month.

The Iranian well is over 5,000 meters deep.

The Azeri TOURAN news agency quoted deputy head of Azerbaijan's state-owned oil company, Khoshbakht Yousefzadeh, as announcing that cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan in this regard was based on an agreement reached with the Iranian National Oil Company.

Yousefzadeh added that based on another contract, the two sides were to conduct seismographical operations deep inside Iran's territorial waters in the Caspian, but the project was shelved when it ran into various difficulties.

Talking to IRNA, an Iranian official at the Oil Ministry confirmed the report, while rejecting Yousefzadeh's claims on shelving the seismographical project.

He added that the contract was not suspended, rather the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank was to allocate credits for its implementation.

Yousefzadeh had said implementation of the seismographical operations in the Caspian Sea waters by Iran and Azerbaijan would cost dlrs. 2.5 million.

Government Allows Transit of Central Asia Oil

LD0801122095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Economic Council, in its latest session, authorized the Oil Ministry to provide necessary resources in order to set up required facilities for the transport of oil products from Central Asian states to neighboring countries through Iran.

According to the Council decision, importers in neighboring countries will be able to supply oil products to the National Iranian Oil Company at the country's points of entry and receive a corresponding amount at the country's exit points for transport to its final destination.

Nations Approve Draft Agreement on ECO Air

LD1001212295 Tehran IRNA in English 2110 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 11 Jan (IRNA)—Managing-director of Iran Air, Hassan Shafti said here on Tuesday that managing-directors of national airlines of member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] in their two day meeting in Tehran approved the constitution of 'ECO Air' and a draft signed in this regard. He said the agreement on setting up a joint airline of the ten member states was worked out after expert studied economic, legal, technical and international issues, following the first meeting of managing-directors of national airlines of ECO states in Tehran last March.

ECO groups together Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

Shafti said the formal agreement for ECO air is to be signed by presidents of member states at their Islamabad summit next March and the airline would start operation a month afterwards.

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He said all member states are not obliged to contribute to the setting up of ECO air and neither would their not-participating effect their membership in the organization.

Shafti said Tehran would be the headquarters of ECO Air and that the airline would operate regular or special flights to both member and non-member countries.

The two-day meeting of managing-directors of national airlines of ECO member states was opened in Tehran yesterday by Minister of Transport, Akbar Torkan, in the presence of ECO Secretary-General, Pakistan's Shamshad Ahmad Khan.

IRNA: Insurance for Exports May Encourage Suppliers

LD1001121695 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Jan. 10, IRNA—The Swiss Export Credit Guarantee agency, ERG, has become the first western agency to resume insurance cover for exports to Iran after the rescheduling of most foreign debts. The move to start providing cover is expected to encourage early decision by other major suppliers, including Germany, Italy, France and Japan, according to the London-based MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST (MEED).

ERG's return to business follows a dlrs. 150 million rescheduling agreement signed on December 29 between Credit Suisse and Bank Mellat of Iran for Swiss creditors that do not have state credit cover. It also comes after ERG rescheduled official short-term debts of around dlrs. 340 million in March last year.

Credit Suisse, which has been a major participant in arranging finance lines for Iran since the 1980s, was reported by meed to have reopened a special credit line for Iran's pharmaceutical imports from October with an initial ceiling of dlrs. 77 million.

Iran's official and private rescheduling is estimated to have so far totalled dlrs. 12 billion with major suppiers, which are seen as opening the way for the restoration of other state cover, frozen since 1993. Negotiations are also under way with Iran's fifth biggest trade partner, Britain, where an early decision is expected concerning some dlrs. 200 million worth of current debts, mostly without cover.

Commentary on Saudi Minister's Comments on Ties

LD0801140795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Saudi Arabian Interior Minister Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, talking at the end of the Arab interior ministers meeting in Tunis, said that Riyadh was inclined to have normal ties with Iran. He stipulated Iran is a powerful Islamic neighboring country and all the member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC [GCC], view Iran from the same angle. He stressed that Saudi Arabia and other members of the PGCC were inclined to have normal ties with Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed the establishment of ties with all its neighbors in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf on the basis of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect and has repeatedly stipulated the point that aliens must not interfere in the affairs of the regional countries. This point was once again driven home during the Qatari foreign minister's recent visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and his talks with the Iranian officials. The Islamic Republic of Iran in different ways and in action has shown its inclination for interregional countries cooperation. The establishment of good ties between Iran and certain PGCC member states, including Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, are based on the pursuance of the same principle.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that regional affairs should be managed by the countries of the region themselves. So it is in the interest of the regional states that they, while establishing normal and amicable relations with each other, neutralize the aliens' plots aimed at turning the strategic Persian Gulf region into an insecure and crisis-torn area.

A realistic survey of the brief history of the Islamic revolution denotes that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to attain this goal, has not adopted an aggressive policy when under the most difficult conditions. By showing self-restraint, Iran has urged its Arab neighbors, despite their improper attitude in recent past, to get united and forge unity, stressing the need for solidarity in the Islamic world and amicable coexistence between the Persian Gulf and Middle East states. If Iran's Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf examine the performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran upon facing regional issues in different periods, they will undoubtedly realize this point that Iran thinks of the interests of the nations in this region. At the same time, it believes that the interests of all countries lie in having peace and cordial relations with each other so that, aided by cooperation among them, ground may be paved for further progress and prosperity of the nations in this region.

Paper Says Saudi Words Welcomed, Action Needed

LD0901104195 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 9 Jan (IRNA)—A morning daily Monday commented on recent remarks by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on Riyadh wishing to have normal relations with Iran.

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Tehran considers the remark from a high-ranking Saudi official very important, IRAN NEWS said in its editorial, adding "yet, for all their experience of the past several decades, the Saudi leaders do not seem to have grasped the basic fact that the West will do anything to stop any rapprochement between the first and the second most prolific oil producers in OPEC."

Before the Islamic revolution of 1979 and at a time when Iran was ruled by a monarchical system, the West did its best to forestall any close relations between the two oil giants, even though both countries were similar in their governmental structure and both were among the best allies of the U.S., the paper added.

A close look at relations between the two countries since the Islamic revolution, the article noted, reveals that both countries have been victims of a great misunderstanding created and aggrandized through the propaganda campaign launched by the mass media of the Western world.

"The result has been a darkened political sky and bitter feelings between the two countries which in real terms has resulted in great loss of life and property in the region," it noted.

"What is important for Tehran is whether the Saudi leaders have the genuine political will to normalize relations with Iran or if Prince Nayif's statement is merely a diplomatic ploy to ease the pressure of the existing tension," the daily underlined.

If there is a serious intention in this connection without any anxiety on the part of the Saudis about the views of London and Washington, then in view of the goodwill which the Iranian Government has manifested through the serial trips to Riyadh undertaken by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in recent years, Tehran awaits a practical manifestation of this point of view, it said.

The paper concluded by saying, "that would entail Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal coming to Tehran to begin a dialogue for discussing and eventually setting all outstanding issues in a friendly atmosphere."

Egyptian Envoy on Debt Settlement, Normal Ties

LD0801111595 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (IRNA)—The Egyptian Government hopes the recent settlement of Egyptian debts to Iran will ease 15 years of tense relations and bring about a normalization of diplomatic ties with Iran.

Head of the Egyptian interests section in Iran, Mahmud Farag, told Kayhan Hava'i in an exclusive interview here last week that Cairo interpreted the recent agreement between Egypt's Central Bank and Iran's Ministry of Economy on settling the debts as an "important step" towards preparing the ground for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Iran has so far given no sign of willingness to normalize diplomatic relations with Egypt on the grounds that Egypt was the first country which broke Arab solidarity and signed the 1979 Camp David peace treaty with the Zionist regime.

In November, Egypt agreed to provide Iran with machinery and equipment to pay off the loans it had been granted by the shah's regime. According to Iran's Ministry of Economy, Iran had granted the Egyptian Central Bank two loans of dlrs. 120 million and dlrs. 200 million.

"Farag said that four Topolov planes have been delivered to Mahan, a private air transport company, to pay off the dlrs. 120 million debt and the dlrs. 200 milliion loan is to be settled through the establishment of five cane-sugar factories in Iran by the Egyptian state sugar company," the weekly reported.

"Two more cane-sugar factories will be established in Iran, all of them in the Southern Khuzestan province with the assistance of the Islamic Development Bank which is affiliated to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)," the paper quoted the Egyptian diplomat as saying.

"The agreement includes the transfer of the know-how of the sugar industry to Iran and the training of Iranians," he noted adding that it would take about five years to accomplish the project.

The diplomat also said that his country was willing to transfer aluminium technology to Iran.

The Egyptian diplomat could not confirm that Iranian opposition groups were broadcasting Persian progrmans from Cairo but said he would consult his government on the issue. However "it is not our policy to allow Iranian opposition groups to carry out activities against Iran."

Farag further said that a "dialogue" was necessary to create the appropriate atmosphere for the development of bilateral relations, adding that "Egypt harboured no hostility towards Iran."

Pakistan

Reaction to Defense Secretary Perry's Visit

English Media Reviewed

BK1101113595

[FBIS Editorial Report] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry began his three-day visit to Pakistan on 10 January. According to the U.S. and Pakistani Governments, the goal of the visit is to "find ways and means to strengthen defense cooperation."

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Follows a brief survey of commentary and editorials from media covered by Bangkok Bureau for 10 January: In previewing the visit, newspapers generally questioned U.S. motives concerning relations with Pakistan and speculated about "renewed U.S. interests" in the region on the defense level. Much attention also was given to speculation about the agenda for the talks and whether or not "thornier issues" like the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and Pakistan's nuclear program would be discussed.

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English, a prominent Shia newspaper, carried a report speculating that Perry, in a "last ditch" effort to enforce the NPT in the region, would offer "a comprehensive defence pact to both India and Pakistan." The Pakistani Government, which has been reassuring the nation that "Pakistan will not move an inch from its declared policy on nuclear, Kashmir and the vital national security matters", issued a denial, with the Foreign Office spokesman stating "categorically that a report appearing in the section of the press that the visiting defense secretary may offer a defense pact to Pakistan is completely without foundation." [Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network English]

Islamabad THE NEWS in English carried a report noting that "the most significant post-cold war interaction between Pakistan and the United States will begin with the arrival" of Perry, but adding that the Pakistani leadership "are expecting no earth-shaking proposal from Washington."

A "news analysis" from Islamabad THE NATION in English speculated on U.S. interests in the region and noted "Washington despite all its talk of disarmament and denuclearisation views the role of overwhelming force as a central factor in promoting its economic and defence interests." It added that Pakistan should be asking itself: "How is Washington strategically important and useful for Pakistan?" An unattributed article from Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English noted that the United States is a friend of Pakistan "occasionally" and only when Pakistan is "usable." The article asked: "What have we done to so please the US as to make it want to have good relations with us?" It questioned whether or not relations are improving and stated "it is not easy to feel easy" about this. Islamabad THE NATION in English published a "curtain raiser" which noted public opinion remains "apprehensive of American intentions" and said that the fact that "after a decade that such an important American delegation is visiting the country" is "enough cause for public concern."

Perry's Objectives Questioned

BK1101112295 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 11 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The U.S. Defense Secretary's Visit—Apprehensions, Implications, and National Requirements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has arrived in Pakistan accompanied by a high-level delegation. This is the first visit to Pakistan by an American defense secretary since the end of the Cold War. Earlier, when the Afghan war was at its peak, U.S. Vice President Bush and Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger visited Pakistan. It was a time when Pakistan was considered an important cornerstone in U.S. foreign policy. After the Soviet Union's defeat, its withdrawal from Afghanistan, and its eventual disintegration, however, Pakistan lost its importance for the United States in this region.

William Perry's visit is a notable event, but national and political circles in Pakistan are expressing serious apprehensions about it. A meeting was held on 8 January under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, during which possible topics of discussion with the U.S. defense secretary were debated. According to press reports, the government decided not to yield to the United States on any issue. On 9 January, a Foreign Ministry official briefed top military leaders on the visit.

A positive aspect of William Perry's visit is that the United States, the sole superpower, is trying to establish high-level contacts with Pakistan to promote bilateral relations. The main question is: What are the objectives and results of these contacts? It is unfortunate that the Pakistani Government sometimes makes extremely important decisions without taking the nation into confidence. A glaring example is the important decision in 1990 to cap the nuclear program—an issue involving national defense. The United States suspended our economic and military aid despite this decision, and this is still continuing. The government says it will not accept any U.S. pressure, but if a deal is made behind closed doors the people will not be allowed to know anything, just like in the past.

The nuclear program tops the list of issues on which Pakistan and the United States differ. The United States succeeded in capping our program in 1990. Now, as a first step, it wants to confirm whether or not Pakistan has actually capped it. It is giving Pakistan the option of allowing nonphysical measures to confirm the capping. In the second phase, the United States would like Pakistan to freeze its nuclear program and eventually abandon it after signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The present government has clarified that Pakistan will not sign the NPT unilaterally. In this column, though, we have always said that Pakistan should not sign the NPT even on a bilateral basis unless the Kashmir issue is resolved in accordance with the agenda for the partition of India and the Security Council resolutions. The Indian stand is that even if Pakistan accepts the NPT, it will not sign because it is a big country and is threatened by the nuclear programs of China and other big countries in the region. This means that India is forthrightly rejecting the NPT. Given this situation, it is imperative

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that Pakistan not compromise on its nuclear program—which is like a matter of life and death—and clearly tell the United States that Pakistan cannot oblige U.S. desires unless there is an honorable solution to the Kashmir issue.

The second matter in dispute between the United States and Pakistan is military and economic aid and the supply of equipment, all of which has been negated by the Pressler Amendment. Despite capping the nuclear program, Pakistan was not given the 16 F-16 planes it had already paid for. This means that if we adopt a posture of yielding to U.S. pressure and accepting its demands on the nuclear program and other matters, it is quite possible that we will not only lose our nuclear deterrent but will face a situation like the one created by imprudent governments during our early days, when they allowed the United States to operate a spy base at Bader. Pakistan gained nothing from this, and the United States stabbed us in the back by imposing a ban on the supply of arms to Pakistan during the 1965 war.

According to an Indian newspaper, HINDU, the United States is building a research center in Pakistan to monitor the nuclear tests and capabilities of countries in the region like China, India, and Iran. The government has not refuted the report. This means something is wrong.

Among other things the United States wants to do is have Pakistan agree to the third option on Kashmir and make it an independent state. The United States wants to use this state for maneuvers against China. The national press has also expressed apprehension about detaching Karachi and making it a Hong Kong-style free port called Jinnahpur. The government has very emphatically rejected the report on the detachment of Karachi and the alleged deal on Gwadar. Hopefully, the government will adhere to its statements and will not allow our national interests to be affected. The government has never denied handing over a piece of land to the Omani ruler.

Retaining Pakistan in its present form, protecting it from external aggression, solving the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions, adhering to the nuclear deterrence policy—these should be the government's top priorities.

The United States is now the world's sole superpower. No one can deny its importance. The United States should adopt a policy of live and let live. It should not try to foster a new kind of colonization [istimar] under the guise of the new world order.

Pakistan should remember that although we might convince the United States hundreds of thousand times that we are liberal and free-thinking Muslims, the United States thinks that to be a Muslim is a crime in itself. Muslims are being punished for this crime in Bosnia, Kashmir, and now in Chechnya. Pakistan's nuclear program is an eyesore to the United States simply because it is the nuclear program of an Islamic country. It does not have any objection to the Indian or Israeli nuclear programs. Our government should not remain oblivious to our national interests. In particular, it should not deviate from the national stand on Kashmir and the nuclear program. The outcome of the U.S. defense secretary's visit will be known within the next few days. Until then, we reserve the right to comment further.

Perry Urged To Be Impartial

BK1101115195 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 11 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Kashmir and Nuclear Program: Pakistan's Categorical Stand, Warning to India's Patrons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has told British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in no uncertain terms that the solution to the Kashmir problem lies solely in the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, because the Kashmiri people will accept nothing short of a plebiscite held under UN supervision. Opposing India's bid to hold elections in the occupied valley, the prime minister made it clear to the British foreign secretary that his statements on Kashmir in Delhi, Lahore, and Islamabad have caused deep anguish among the Pakistani people as well as over 10 million Kashmiris. Regretting the British foreign secretary's statements, the prime minister emphasized that the establishment of peace in South Asia depends on the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

This is very encouraging that the Pakistani prime minister and other members of her government, at their respective levels, have rejected the British foreign secretary's statements and have once again made Pakistan's stand known to the world that it will not accept any solution other than the implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir. The British foreign secretary's statements obviously reflect the Indian viewpoint, because the United Kingdom has enormous financial and commercial stakes in India. This, however, does not mean that an important official of the British Government will go on hurting the feelings of the 120 million Pakistanis and 10 million Kashmiris merely because of UK commercial interests. The manner in which the Pakistani Government received Douglas Hurd and reaffirmed its stand in very clear terms should open the eyes of the British Government as well as of other patrons of India.

Close on the heels of the British foreign secretary's visit, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry also arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday and is currently holding discussions with important members of the Pakistani Government and those responsible for the country's defense. A detailed meeting of corps commanders and chiefs of important agencies was held in Islamabad on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed, in which preparations for talks with William Perry were finalized. We hope that during talks on Tuesday, the U.S. defense secretary would have been informed of Pakistan's firm stand on the nuclear program, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the U.S. refusal to supply arms and F-16 aircraft to Pakistan.

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Although the international media has been reporting that the U.S. defense secretary will not pay much attention to nuclear and Kashmir issues, the agenda prepared by the Pakistani Government for talks at different levels reflects that Islamabad has decided to fully and emphatically inform the U.S. statesman of its firm stand on all issues. We would not be unfair in expecting that the government's above decision has already been translated into action.

Every patriotic Pakistani citizen cannot but express his sense of satisfaction with the fact that the British foreign secretary and the U.S. defense secretary have been told in no uncertain terms that Pakistan is not ready to forgo its traditional stand on its security and the Kashmir problem. We also expect that notwithstanding the U.S. commercial interests in India, the U.S. defense secretary will objectively and impartially assess and become fully aware of the threats posed to Pakistan by India and its war preparations, especially the threat to regional peace from India's nuclear weapons and missile development programs. We also hope that the U.S. defense secretary, through his word and deed, will prove the veracity of the tall claims being made by Washington about maintaining an evenhanded approach toward India and Pakistan in this region and that he will not utter anything that will injure the feelings of the Pakistani people.

Nothing 'Dramatic' Predicted

BK1101073295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Mr Perry's Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hard on the heels of the visit of the British foreign secretary we now have the US Defence Secretary, Mr William Perry, visiting Pakistan at the head of a high-powered 40-member delegation to discuss issues of mutual concern, particularly those relating to the country's security environment. Though officially, on the part of the US, the visit has been billed as one meant to explore avenues of greater bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries, there is a perception here at the popular level that the purpose may well be to put pressure on Pakistan for signing the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and making unilateral concessions on the Kashmir issue. Politico-religious parties have already proceeded on this assumption to organise protest demonstrations on the US defence secretary's arrival. For their part government spokesmen have made it clear that Pakistan remains firm on its oft-stated positions on key issues such as that of Kashmir and the nuclear programme. In a clear signal meant to convey consensus at the top between the political leadership and the military top brass as well as among the latter a high-profile meeting was held Sunday, virtually on the eve of the defence secretary's visit, between the three services chiefs and the prime minister followed by another one a day later between the corps commanders and the army chief. It may well be, as some media reports have it, that Mr Perry will renew the US offer of a one-time exception to the Pressler Amendment to enable Pakistan to take delivery of the F-16 aircraft already paid for in return for non-intrusive inspection to verify that Pakistan has indeed capped its nuclear programme. It is, however, highly unlikely that the Pakistan government will change its position to the effect that any such move cannot be considered, unilaterally. Similarly, on Kashmir if the US wants Pakistan to negotiable bilaterally with India—as also proposed by Britain as well as others including China and Russia—Pakistan is likely to make it clear, as it has done to the British foreign secretary, that bilateral negotiations with India can be resumed only in the event that the latter shows some willingness to bring about concrete changes on the ground in Kashmir such as a significant reduction in the more than half a million troops stationed there.

Given the wide divergence in perceptions then, on key issues of concern it is highly unlikely that anything dramatic will emerge as a result of the deliberations in the course of the defence secretary's visit. Nevertheless, the composition of the delegation as well as its stress on the issue of non-proliferation during the course of the Middle East leg of its trip is indicative of its importance not least with regard to the issue of Pakistan's nuclear policy as well as that of Kashmir. The presence in its ranks of Assistant Secretary of Defence Joseph S. Nye, who is an expert on disarmament and issues related to nuclear proliferation is significant in this context. Similarly, another member of the delegation is Ms Robin Raphel, assistant secretary of state for South Asia, who has been one of the key US officials concerned with the Kashmir issue and has made more than one trip to the subcontinent in this regard in the recent past. At another level the significance of this visit may lie in the US attempt to interject itself in the Pak-India equation by stepping up defence cooperation with both countries with a view to putting itself in a more advantageous position to press both sides for a negotiated and mutually acceptable settlement of issues of common concern. To be able to do so, however, the US will have to demonstrate that it is indeed "even-handed" in its treatment of both countries. As matters stand there is a widespread perception in Pakistan that the US is basically interested in forcing it to concede on key issues such as the nuclear programme and Kashmir, unilaterally. This perception of being unfairly targeted has been fed also by the denial of military and economic assistance after 1990 under the Pressler Amendment and the blatantly unfair act of withholding the delivery of F-16s that Pakistan has already paid for. If the US genuinely wants to contribute to the easing of tensions in the region and greater stability in the area its actions must begin to conform to its professed resolve to be even-handed vis-a-vis Pakistan and India.

Talks With Bhutto Reported

BK1101073995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Jan 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan 10 (APP)—Pakistan and the United States Tuesday [10 January]

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held a wide-ranging review of bilateral relations including Pressler Amendment, cooperation between the Armed Forces of two countries and discussed ways to improve their ties in various other areas.

US Secretary of Defence William Perry who arrived here on a 3-day official visit held "three rounds of meetings" with Pakistani officials on his arrival this morning, said a Foreign Office spokesman.

Sources said that Mr Perry during his talks with PM [Prime Minister] Benazir Bhutto assured Pakistan of even handed approach on all matters.

When asked by a group of reporters at Foreign Office to comment on his visit, William Perry said, "I am here as a friend of Pakistan. I am here to discuss ways for cooperating in the mutual security interests of Pakistan and USA."

Perry in his arrival statement at Islamabad airport had said that during his visit he would "dwell on what might be wrong in our relationship—I am here to promote a broader security dialogue that will help us build on what's right about it. The best way to overcome our differences is to have a broader security dialogue so that we can better understand one another."

Perry has a "wide-ranging review of bilateral relations between Pakistan and USA and the measures that can be taken to improve their relations", said the spokesman on his talks with the Prime Minister.

The talks between the Prime Minister and William Perry continued on the lunch hosted by the Prime Minister for the visiting US Secretary of Defence, he said.

Benazir apprised the Defence Secretary of the latest situation in the Held Kashmir and drew his attention towards increasing Indian brutalities and gross violations of human rights, said PM House sources.

According to the sources, Perry assured Benazir Bhutto the US will have an even approach between its relations with India and Pakistan and will discuss these issues in his forthcoming visit to India.

"We want either the planes or our money back. We think this is all very unfair", Prime Minister told reporters at Prime Minister House shortly after US Defence Secretary flew in the Federal Capital Tuesday morning.

Pakistan had paid about US dollars 650 million for the 38 F-16 aircraft which had not been delivered to us so far. However the Prime Minister said, "Despite the constraints imposed by Pressler Amendment both countries have broadened the nature of their relationship to encompass other matters, particularly investment".

"There was a mutual desire expressed by both sides to do everything possible to improve and enlarge relations between the two countries to their mutual benefit", said Foreign Office spokesman.

Soon after his arrival Perry went to Rawalpindi to hold talks with his counterpart Aftab Shaban Mirani which focused on the issues arising out of Pressler Amendment, mutual training and discussing on a regional basis, missile control and promoting non-proliferation. We have proposed a zero-missile regime and we would like to be taken further. We have also put certain proposals on regional non-proliferation including a 5-nation conference on the subject, the Prime Minister said. On these matters, she said, Pakistan would certainly brief the visiting US Defence Secretary.

"Signing of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] unilaterally is not going to be the focus of the US Secretary's visit", she asserted.

To a query about F-16 planes, the Prime Minister said, "It is not a question of buying of F-16s alone... but we had also sent some equipment/machinery for repair which has not been returned. And, this is all very unfair and hope Americans themselves would also agree that despite legal constraints, it is unfair; because, what is our is ours—should not have been stopped".

"It is not that we are asking about anything additional to add to our defence capability. We are asking for return of what is ours. As far as F-16s are concerned, I don't know whether they cost as much as they did a few years ago. Because, as you know planes have refined with passage of time and more upgraded versions keep coming up. If Lockheed minds return of the same amount of money, they may approach us. But, as far as we are concerned, we want either the planes and other equipment back or our money back", she categorically stated.

Even under discriminatory Pressler law, she said, "US would continue to sell us spares. So, we feel, if spares can be sold to us then all the equipment should have been returned to us immediately, because it was wanted to be fixed up. As far as new equipment is concerned, if it can't be sold to us, we should get the money back".

[Islamabad THE NEWS in English on 11 January carries a similar report on page 12 that adds: "She also denied the opposition's claim that the United States wanted the southern Pakistani port of Gwadar, close to the Iranian border, on lease. But when reminded by journalists that according to the opposition the Sultan of Oman was going to buy 100 acres around the port and lease it to the US, she said: 'The US has no interest in the port but if the Sultan of Oman wants it, we will be very happy to oblige him.'"]

Benazir Bhutto said on Tuesday that India had to address the core issue of Kashmir directly as her government "is convinced that there could not be any step-by-step solution," to this lingering problem. "The things like confidence building measures (CBMs) are meaningless unless the main issue of Kashmir is resolved," she told Islamabad-based foreign journalists here.

She said, "even if we talk of confidence building measures," then India should repeal TADA [Terrorism And

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Disruptive Activities] laws, reduce its security forces and open up the troubled-held Kashmir to the human right groups and free press. "There has to be a sincere desire by India that should be demonstrated by deeds," she added.

She said Pakistan could not open its trade with India for it would send a wrong signal to Kashmiri people who had been undergoing Indian atrocities. "We can not take any step that demoralises Kashmiri men and women," she added.

Answering a question, Prime Minister said Pakistan had always been prepared to engage in dialogue with India. "We are political people, we never rule out dialogue," she said adding that, "we don't have prejudice or animosity that prevent rational and logical thinking."

She said Pakistan had foreign secretary level negotiations with India in January last but, "unfortunately India at that time was very inflexible." She said India had to take some tangible steps to show its sincerity and, "then will see that Pakistan is prepared for a political process."

As far as so-called elections in held Kashmir are concerned, she said, "it is against international stance, international commitment made by India, by world community in United Nations at the Security Council which call for plebiscite," in held Kashmir.

She said, "it is contradiction in terms to ask Pakistan to accept elections as it has committed and so as India to the Kashmiri people," she added.

She said elections were held in the past in occupied Kashmir but that did not lead to any solution to the dispute, "just repeating a failed experience of the past is not going to resolve this intractable problem," she added.

Referring to Government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks, she said her government wanted peace in Karachi and was, "ready to talk with anybody who could guarantee us peace in Karachi and we will give concessions to him." However, she reiterated that, "we need quid pro quo," she said the government had met the major demand of MQM and had withdrawn army from the city. However, she said though it was a political demand but her government did it, "in highest national consideration," so that troops could concentrate on their actual duty that was the defence of frontiers.

Perry's 'New Agenda' Viewed

BK1101101795 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Jan 95 p 11

[Article by retired General Khalid Mahmud Arif: "Mr Perry & his 'new agenda'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Defence Secretary William Perry, leading a strong delegation, is currently on a visit to Pakistan and India.

A Pentagon official had earlier declared that the purpose of his visit to the disturbed South Asia is "to build a defence relationship on a new and even-handed basis;" to stress the importance of "peacekeeping and UN peacekeeping in particular" to India and Pakistan; to urge "transparency" in defence policies and discuss the nuclear non-proliferation issue. The emphasis will be to "develop and reaffirm" America's defence relationship "with these important nations." The objective of the visit as defined by the Foreign Office is to "discuss the strategic environment in South Asia to preserve the long-standing military relations between Pakistan and the United States and, wherever possible, to expand these."

Mr Perry brings to South Asia "a new agenda" comprising three elements: Peacekeeping, transparency and confidence-building. The Kashmir dispute, the other regional issues, the release of F-16s or the return of the money paid by Pakistan and the Pressler Amendment are proposed to be kept on the back burner by the US. However, the alleged sale of missiles by China to Pakistan, being "a specific issue," may be raised by it.

That the Clinton administration decided to send a Defence Secretary-led delegation after being in office for two years, reflects the low priority it attaches to South Asia. Currently, the US interest in this area is essentially geo-economic—sell more goods and services to keep its industry running. On this count, India, being a larger market than Pakistan, gets a preferential treatment. By skillfully exploiting the China card, India has already managed to acquire from the US dual-purpose high technology, cooperation in the field of defence and a sympathetic understanding of her expanding political ambitions. As a quid pro quo she promotes the US interests by helping to contain China.

Mr Perry's "new agenda," is like an old wine served in a new glass. Since issues of vital concern to Pakistan—Kashmir, F-16s, Pressler Amendment and India's high ambition—are not high on the US discussion list, the bias was visible even before the team arrived in this country. Semantic apart, such a proclivity cannot produce an even-handed policy-rabbit out of the American diplomatic hat. This is not to blame America which has to promote her own national interest. The US cannot be faulted if despite its clear announcements the Pakistani leaders, for reasons of domestic compulsion and self-survival in office, keep harping on the theme that the Pakistan-US relations are improving. With no settlement on major issues achieved or in sight, a marginal gain, if any, on the peripheral matters at a high cost, cannot be called an improvement in the bilateral relations. It is better to call a spade a spade than indulge in self-illusion or hide reality from the people.

Pakistan-US relations are under stress and Perry's visit, unlikely to produce spectacular results, is a good opportunity to discuss the bilateral issues and regional irritants with the dignitary, frankly. The greater the impasse the

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greater is invariably the need to keep the negotiating shutters open, listen to the other side with care and forcefully present one's own viewpoint. The issues likely to come up for discussion could be the bilateral ties, regional difficulties and some matters of global interest.

On the bilateral plane, the one country-specific Pressler Amendment is a mockery of law and stigma on the [words indistinct] of US justice on the one hand it has failed to promote the goal of non-proliferation, and, on the other, it has given to India a veto over Pakistan. If even-handedness be the US approach, the Pressler Amendment does not show it.

The US policy of neither releasing the purchased F-16s to Pakistan nor returning the money paid by the latter has eroded the former's business credibility and reliability as supplier state. A civilised society, without honouring the freely negotiated contracts, will promote the law of jungle. Or, is Pakistan being squeezed to extract concessions?

The Pakistan-US aid relationship deserves an overdue burial. More than trade, or other mundane benefits, these two countries should develop a better understanding of each other's perceptions on matters of vital concern to them. Pakistan values her ties with the US. There is no confrontation between them on any point. These relations should be further improved on the basis of principles and the provisions of the UN Charter.

On the regional plane, America is not unaware that India, which had earlier started an arms race in South Asia and nuclearised the region, has now initiated a missile race. And yet the pressure is exerted on Pakistan. The security of India is important. But so is the security of its neighbours. To build up the security of one country in this region on the insecurity of others will further destabilise South Asia. Confidence building can be achieved when all the regional countries get equal security, preferably at less cost.

The nuclear non-proliferation, a global and regional issue, should be addressed accordingly. The policy of asking Pakistan to unilaterally compromise on her nuclear programme, while leaving India free to stockpile fissile materials and develop a variety of missile systems, has failed in the past and shall fail in the future. The visiting dignitary may be informed that, to protect her security, the unilateral freeze imposed on our uranium enrichment effort may have to be removed because the regional scale is increasingly tilting against her. Regional peace and security can be only protected by adopting an even-handed approach on the nuclear issue. The Indian threat is too obvious and too serious to ignore. The nuclear factor is not the cause of conflict in South Asia. Kashmir is.

History shows that peace remains vulnerable so long as the sources of conflict endure. Kashmir is a flashpoint in the region. The massive human rights violations committed by India and the atrocities perpetrated by its illegal occupation forces on the people of Kashmir have inflamed the disputed state. The people demand their right of self-determination. South Asia will remain unstable and poor so long as this dispute remains unsettled.

On the global plane, the discriminatory NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] needs to be balanced and improved to make it acceptable to the growing number of its critics. The Treaty in its present form is unfit for permanent extension. A short extension, irrevocably linked with a binding commitment given by the nuclear-have states to achieve universal nuclear disarmament by a specified date, may be in order. A permanent extension of the NPT, at this stage, will remove all pressures from the nuclear-have states to achieve the goal of universal nuclear non-proliferation.

America and Pakistan share common objectives against narcotics, terrorism, extremism and trade malpractices; promoting human rights and democracy; participating in UN peacekeeping operations; and in the principles of the UN Charter. These provide a base to build meaningful relations on a durable basis.

It is a little intriguing that William Perry, General Binford Peay, Robin Raphel and Joseph Nye should be visiting this country which has been relegated by the US from the position of a friend to that of a whipping boy. Nevertheless, as orientals we welcome our guests and shall judge them by their deeds. Their awareness of the regional problems can help them in putting the bilateral relations on even keel. The Assistant Secretary, Defence, Joseph Nye, had served in the Carter administration which, by adopting a partisan attitude toward Pakistan, had compelled France to renege on her contractual commitment of providing a reprocessing plant to Pakistan. Despite our reservations we may not prejudge Clinton. We wish the visiting team success in its effort of framing a balanced and evenhanded US policy package toward India and Pakistan.

India and Pakistan need peace and stability. Peace can best be achieved by removing the sources of friction between them. The issues of secondary importance will then fall in line. While a great responsibility lies on the regional leadership to achieve durable peace, a constructive role can be played by those who wish to see a tranquil South Asia. Notwithstanding our internal differences on other issues we must convey to all friends and neighbours that we stand united on the issues of Kashmir, nuclear programme and national defence and no unilateral concessions can be made by us on these counts. If transparency be the goal, the US policy of even-handedness should be no less transparent to the region.

50,000 RAW Agents Reportedly Active in Sindh

BK0101091495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Jan 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad, Dec 31—Identifying Sindh including Karachi as Pakistan's soft

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belly, reportedly 50,000 RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents have been turning Sindh upside down for quite some time, informed sources told The Muslim. In Dec alone, 106 people were killed in acts of terrorism. Financed, trained and equipped as the RAW agents are, they have caused havoc in Karachi.

Investigation reports based on information provided by three arrested terrorists from their hideout in Karachi and their cohorts have endorsed large scale Indian sponsorship of terrorism in Sindh, particularly Karachi. Terrorism was alleged to be patronised through Indian Consulate General in Karachi.

Reportedly the Indians Consulate has been found actively involved in extending help to saboteurs and terrorists in Sindh. Sources said the law enforcing agencies were believed to have incriminating evidence of the involvement of the Indian intelligence agencies through the consulate in the recent sectarian clashes and other incidents of sabotage and subversion in the troubled province.

According to sources, the interrogation of suspects apprehended had confirmed that the Consulate staff had all along been working in association with the secessionist elements and in recruiting youth from both rural and urban areas for training in India. The Indians are reported to have 34 camps inside their country to train saboteurs for terrorist activities in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is said to have given documentary evidence of India's involvement in its internal affairs to various Indian delegations at different forms. To cover up their nefarious activities, the Indians have been levelling allegations against Pakistan of assisting separatists movements in East Punjab and held Kashmir.

However, according to information gleaned from the RAW agents arrested in Pakistan shows that most of the training camps are located across the border of Sindh and Punjab and the LoC [Line of Control] in Kashsmir. [sentence as published] Such subversive elements are imparted training in handling grenades, machine guns, rocket launchers and plastic explosives martial arts and guerilla warfare.

According to sources, the RAW agents rocked the cities of Larkana and Sukkur through a series of bomb blasts, killing two and injuring 17 persons. Over 1000 pretty girls entered Pakistan and were deployed in Karachi and other parts of Sindh to indulge in espionage by cultivating relations with the VIPs. Through a series of bomb blasts in government buildings in Punjab and Azad Kashmir, material damage was caused to buildings, resulting in three deaths. As many as 15 people including three chief petty officers died in bomb blasts in various parts of Karachi. Sources said in the RAW-sponsored ethnic violence that erupted in Shah Faisal Colony Karachi over the hoisting of the party flags, 30 people were killed in the exchange of firing. Sources identified several killings that took place in Karachi over the last six years to be the result of the RAW-sponsored violence in which about two dozen people lost their lives.

According to sources, after the lifting of the army's operation clean-up from Dec 1 to Dec 28 this year, in all 106 people including sister of Agha Shahi, Editor Takheer Maulana Salahuddin and a magistrate were killed in acts of terrorism and dacoities. [passage omitted]

Talks To Buy PRC Nuclear Plant in 'Final Stage'

BK0501131395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Jan 95 p 12

[Report by Anwar Iqbal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Pakistan is in the final stage of negotiations for purchasing another 300 Megawatt nuclear power plant from China, Ishfaque Ahmad, Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], said Wednesday [4 January].

He told the graduation ceremony of the Center for Nuclear Studies which is affiliated with Islamabad's Quaid-Azam University, that the second plant will also be set up at Chashma in Mianwali district, about 180 km southwest of Islamabad. Pakistan already has a 137 MW nuclear plant at Karachi while work is in progress on 300 MW nuclear plant at Chashma which is also being built with Chinese assistance.

Later, a PAEC official told reporters that a delegation from China's National Nuclear Corporation was already in Islamabad for talks on raising funds for the proposed plant. He said Pakistan has sought credit from China to partly finance the project.

Ahmad told the graduation ceremony that Pakistan had achieved complete mastery of the front end of the fuel cycle, starting from mining of uranium to milling and fabrication of fuel bundles. He said that since its inception in 1977 the Center for Nuclear Studies has trained 663 graduates in nuclear engineering, systems engineering and nuclear medicine.

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